



# British Invasion

**Kate Visits NYC Kids as William Meets With Obama**

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Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, receives flowers after visiting the Northside Center for Child Development in New York, Dec. 8, 2014.  
(Seth Wenig/Pool via The New York Times)

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## As America cleans up, it's exporting more pollution

**DINA CAPIELLO**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON/PANAMA**

**(AP)** — Heat-trapping pollution released into the atmosphere from rising exports of U.S. gasoline and diesel dwarfs the cuts made from fuel efficiency standards and other efforts to reduce global warming in the United States, according to a new Associated Press investigation.

Under President Barack Obama, the U.S. has reduced more carbon pollution from energy than any other nation, about 475 million tons between 2008 and 2013, according to U.S. Energy Department data. Less than one-fifth of that amount came from burning less gasoline and diesel fuel.

Yet the U.S. is sending more fuel than ever to other parts of the world, where efforts to address resulting pollution are just getting underway, if advancing at all. U.S. exports of gasoline and diesel released roughly 1 billion tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere elsewhere during the same period, according to AP's analysis. This fossil fuel trade has helped President Barack Obama meet political goals to curb carbon dioxide at home, by taking it off America's pollution balance sheet. But that does not necessarily help the planet.

Despite efforts by the U.S. and others, pollution linked to global warming is still rising worldwide.

In Panama, imports of diesel and gasoline from the U.S. have nearly quadrupled since 2008.

Panama is the largest recipient of diesel fuel dirtier and more carbon-laden than would be allowed in the U.S., in part because the fuel is used in cars and trucks that do not have the same efficiency standards and are not regularly inspected and maintained, the AP's investigation found.

Panama's requirement

that drivers test emissions, including for carbon dioxide, are almost completely ignored.

"It's a false image," said Onel Masardule of the Indigenous People's Bio-cultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative, a Peru-based environmental group. "In reality, the U.S. is still contaminating." Obama has overseen a domestic boom in oil and natural gas production and ordered the biggest increases in fuel economy in history.

That's helped the U.S. reduce oil imports, create jobs, boost exports and shrink the trade deficit.

But for global warming, fuel exports mean that, at the very least, the administration is making a smaller dent than it claims.

"This is their hidden success story that they would like to keep hidden," said Kevin Book, a Washington-based energy analyst and a member of the National Petroleum Council, a federal advisory group in the U.S.

"It has done a lot to improve our balance of trade standing, but it is not the most climate-friendly way to do it. There is no way to avoid that there is a bigger emissions impact when you have more to combust," Book said.

There is no clear accounting of what America's growth as a fossil-fuel powerhouse is doing to the global-warming picture. U.S. projects that increase energy exports could be considered, such as huge terminals planned for the West Coast to send more coal abroad for power plants. Trade agreements could factor in the implications of energy trade on global warming. But no trade pacts negotiated by the White House mention it.

The White House said it is working to strengthen environmental provisions in trade agreements and lower tariffs on technologies that ultimately will reduce emissions abroad. □

## Maryland: Six dead as plane crashes into home

**BEN NUCKOLS**  
**AMANDA MYERS**  
**Associated Press**  
**GAITHERSBURG, Maryland**

**(AP)** — Authorities say a woman and her two young sons were at home when a private jet slammed into their house and were among six people killed in

the crash in Maryland.

Police say the woman's two sons were a month-old infant and a 3-year-old, and their last names are Gemmell. Three people were aboard the jet when it crashed Monday into the home in Gaithersburg, a Washington suburb. The

two-story, wood-frame home was gutted by the impact of the crash and ensuing blaze. Neighbors and property records identify the home's residents as Ken and Marie Gemmell. A National Transportation Safety Board team is investigating the crash. □



Montgomery County, Md., firefighters stand outside a house where a small private jet crashed in Gaithersburg, Md., Monday, Dec. 8, 2014. A woman and her two young sons inside the home and three people on the aircraft were killed, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

## Cleveland:

## Tamir Rice family to push for criminal case

**RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

The mother of Tamir Rice, the 12-year-old African-American boy who was fatally shot by a rookie police officer last month in Cleveland, said Monday that she would press for the officer to be indicted on criminal charges. In a telephone interview, the mother, Samaria Rice, 37, said the pellet gun that Tamir was holding when he was killed at a recreation center Nov. 22 had been given to him to play with by a friend just minutes before the police arrived.

"It wasn't his gun at all," Rice said. "I don't allow that type of thing at my house."

Her son had just gone to the recreation center with his 14-year-old sister, who was inside when someone told

her that there had been a shooting outside, Rice said. "My daughter ran outside, and police tackled her and put her in handcuffs and put her in the police car," she said.

When Rice arrived - two boys had come to her door and told her son had been shot - the police "never let me get to him," she said. "They told me if I didn't calm down, they were going to arrest me and put me in the back of the police car." A spokesman for the Cleveland police did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Rice's statements.

The shooting enraged many people in Cleveland, which is mostly black, who have long said that the city's police officers use excessive force. The complaints of the residents

echoed the findings last week of an 18-month Department of Justice investigation that found a pattern of "unreasonable and unnecessary use of force" by the city's police.

Coming after the police shooting death of Michael Brown, 18, in Ferguson, Missouri, and the choking death of Eric Garner, 43, in Staten Island, the killing of Tamir Rice has become another symbol to many in the African-American community, and others, of the lack of accountability of many police departments in the use of force against minorities.

The rookie Cleveland officer, Tim Loehmann, 26, shot Tamir Rice within two seconds of his patrol car's arriving on the scene and pulling up next to the child. □





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# Kate Visits NYC Kids as William Meets With Obama

**VERENA DOBNIK**  
**JENNIFER PELTZ**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Britain's Prince William sat down with President Barack Obama in Washington on Monday and unveiled an effort to curtail illegal wildlife trading while his wife,

opment center with New York City's first lady, then talked technology, theater and more with a British-success-story guest list at a lunch at the consul general's home. On their first official U.S. trip since 2011, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

William, who is president of United for Wildlife, an umbrella group of conservation organizations, announced that it will convene a new task force to develop recommendations within a year on how the transportation industry can help cut off wildlife

"Very nice to meet you," Kate told a classroom of 3- and 4-year-olds, who were embellishing picture frames with stickers. After encouraging a boy named Sammy in his work, the duchess, who is expecting the couple's second child this spring, turned to a

lin Callender, Parsons The New School of Design fashion dean Simon Collins and tech news site Mashable founder Pete Cashmore. She asked how Callender's recent New York staging of "Macbeth" had been received and told Cashmore his "must be such an exciting industry to be a part of." The royals' schedule for their three-day trip includes a visit to the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum, a reception highlighting conservation efforts with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton, a visit to showcase arts education at a youth organization, a Cleveland Cavaliers-Brooklyn Nets game and a black-tie, up-to-\$10,000-per-seat scholarship fundraiser for their alma mater, the University of St. Andrews. Kate, dressed in a black coat by the British fashion brand Goat, was greeted with cheers from a crowd of several dozen spectators as she arrived at the child care center. Aaron Victor and his wife, Crystal Pizarro, had waited almost an hour on a freezing, gray day with their 3-year-old daughter, London, to catch a glimpse of the duchess.



**President Barack Obama meets with Britain's Prince William in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 8, 2014.**

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Kate, made an impression of a down-to-earth duchess on preschoolers and prominent British expats in New York. In the first full — very full — day of the popular royal couple's first visit to either place, William went to the White House and spoke at a World Bank conference. Kate wrapped Christmas gifts and helped children decorate picture frames while touring a child devel-

have a packed agenda devoted partly to spotlighting conservation and youth development issues. "Our collective goal must be to reduce the wildlife trade by making it harder, denying traffickers access to transportation, putting up barriers to their illegal activities and holding people accountable for their actions," William said at a World Bank anti-corruption conference.

trafficking routes. Meanwhile, the duchess and first lady Chirlane McCray met with families, took a turn gift-wrapping and heard about the work of the Northside Center for Child Development, which was founded by psychologists whose research on the effects of racial discrimination was cited in the Supreme Court's 1954 decision to strike down public school segregation.

girl named April. "Where should I put this one?" the duchess asked, pressing a sticker into the frame. Kate and the first lady later wrapped a few children's Christmas presents in the center's gymnasium, with Kate joking that she hoped she'd be given a square package to tackle. Later, Kate chatted with lunch guests including actor Matthew Rhys, TV and theater producer Co-

"It was a very good experience, and I'm glad she got to see her," Pizarro said. The royals are visiting a city where thousands of people have protested over the past week to decry a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man, Eric Garner, and activists planned to demonstrate at the basketball arena while the royals took in the game. □



## US court rejects BP appeal of 2010 oil spill settlement

J. McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The U.S. Supreme Court is leaving in place BP's multibillion-dollar settlement with lawyers for businesses and residents over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The justices did not comment Monday in rejecting the London-based oil giant's arguments that lower courts misinterpreted settlement terms and put BP on the hook to pay inflated and bogus claims by businesses. The court's decision makes the economic and property damage settlement final, starting a six-month deadline for filing claims, said plaintiffs' attorney Joe Rice of South Carolina.

BP PLC wanted the court to consider whether people and businesses seeking payments under the settlement included some who haven't actually suffered any injury related to the spill.

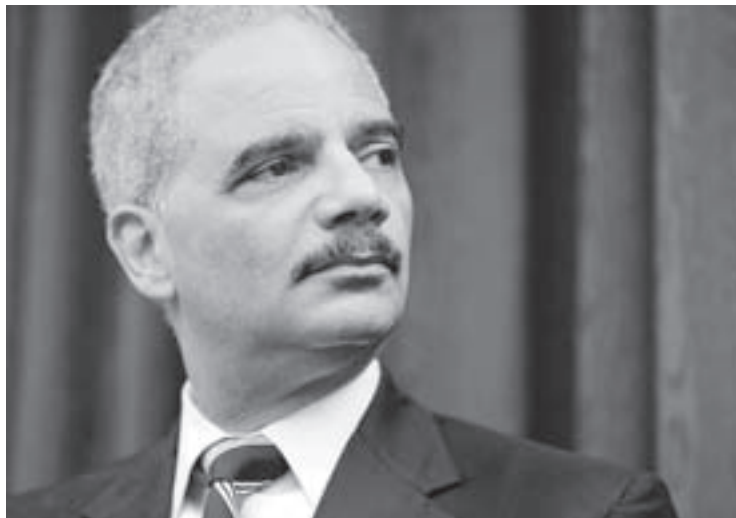
A district court and an appeals court ruled that, under the settlement BP agreed to, businesses do not have to prove they were directly harmed by the spill to collect money — only that they made less money in the three to eight months after the spill than in a comparable pre-spill period.

BP's Macondo well blew up on April 20, 2010, killing 11 men. An estimated 103 million gallons to 176 million gallons (390 million liters to 666 million liters) of oil spewed into the Gulf of Mexico before the mile-deep well was capped July 15, 2010. Lawyers for BP and the government agree that 34 million gallons was captured before it could pollute coastal marshes and fishing grounds.

"Today's ruling is a huge victory for the Gulf, and should finally put to rest BP's two-year attack on its own settlement," lead plaintiffs' attorneys Stephen J. Herman and James P. Roy said in an emailed statement.

The settlement doesn't have a cap, but BP initially estimated that it would pay roughly \$7.8 billion to resolve the claims. The company said it can no longer give a reliable estimate for total cost. The company, which made separate settlements for medical claims and seafood-related business claims, has paid more than \$13 billion in claims by individuals, businesses and government entities and another \$14 billion-plus on response and cleanup, according to its oil spill website.

## Obama administration unveils federal law enforcement profiling ban



U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder speaks during a news conference before a roundtable meeting in Cleveland. New racial profiling guidelines are being announced by the Obama administration that would exempt agents from the Homeland Security Department who do border checks and screen passengers at airports.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration issued guidelines Monday that ban federal law enforcement from profiling on the basis of religion, national origin and other characteristics, protocols the Justice Department hopes could be a model for local departments as the nation tackles questions about the role race plays in policing. The policy, which replaces decade-old guidelines established under the Bush administration, also will require federal agencies to provide training and to collect data on complaints. Civil rights advocates said

they welcomed the broader protections, but were disappointed that the guidelines will exempt security screening in airports and border checkpoints and won't be binding on local and state police agencies. "It's so loosely drafted that its exceptions risk swallowing any rule and permit some of the worst law enforcement policies and practices that have victimized and alienated American Muslim and other minority communities," Laura Murphy, director of the ACLU's Washington Legislative Office, said in a statement. "This guidance is not an adequate response to the crisis of racial profiling in

America."

Though the guidelines — five years in the making — were not drafted in response to recent high-profile cases involving the deaths of black individuals at the hands of white police officers, they're nonetheless being released amid an ongoing national conversation about standards for police use of force, racial justice and the treatment of minorities by law enforcement.

"Particularly in light of certain recent incidents we've seen at the local level — and the widespread concerns about trust in the criminal justice process which so many have raised throughout the nation — it's imperative that we take every possible action to institute strong and sound policing practices," said Attorney General Eric Holder, referring to the August shooting by a white police officer of an unarmed black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri, and the chokehold death weeks earlier of a man in New York City.

Holder, who has made the release of the guidelines a priority before leaving the Justice Department next year, called the guidelines a "major and important step forward to ensure effective policing" by federal law enforcement.



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# Former Madoff executive gets 10 years in prison



**Daniel Bonventre, former director of operations for imprisoned financier Bernard Madoff, arrives at federal court for a sentencing hearing, Monday, Dec. 8, 2014 in New York. He's the first of five Madoff ex-employees to learn their fate in the coming days after a jury convicted them earlier this year of charges related to the multi-decade, multi-billion dollar fraud.**

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**

**Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bernard Madoff's ex-director of operations for investments was sentenced Monday to 10 years in prison by a judge who cited the fraud's "smoldering ruins" as she kicked off an eight-day stretch during which she will announce the punishments of four other former

Madoff workers.

"You lived a prestigious and luxurious life for decades. We now all know it was supported by a massive fraud," U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain told 67-year-old Daniel Bonventre after she announced his sentence, including an order to forfeit \$155 billion. "We all live among the smoldering ruins literally of

thousands of lives, yours included."

"You were not an architect of the Ponzi scheme and are not a person who is evil at heart. You should not spend the rest of your life in prison," she said as she explained leniency that will likely be encouraging to Madoff's former secretary, Annette Bongiorno, 66, computer program-

mers Jerome O'Hara, 51, and George Perez, 48; and account manager JoAnn Crupi, 53.

They face sentencing proceedings through next Monday. The four and Bonventre were convicted at trial earlier this year.

Federal sentencing guidelines had called for Bonventre to spend the rest of his life in prison, with a maximum of 220 years, 70 years longer than the 150-year term being served by Madoff.

The Probation Department had recommended a 20-year term, while prosecutors had urged a sentence significantly longer than that. The defense recommended Bonventre receive home confinement, community service or a short term of incarceration. The judge ordered Bonventre to report to prison Feb. 19. She said she will recommend he be permitted to spend the last year in home detention.

Swain acknowledged the pain of thousands of investors and others who lost billions in a fraud that began

in the 1970s.

But she drew a clear distinction between Madoff and Bonventre, saying Bonventre was a "pampered, compliance and over-compensated worker who willfully blinded himself to the truth" after helping the fraud along since 1992 by falsifying books and records.

"I was used by the ultimate con man," Bonventre said before his sentence was pronounced.

Madoff was arrested in December 2008 and pleaded guilty to fraud charges three months later.

He was ordered to forfeit \$171 billion.

The huge forfeiture numbers represent an amount of money connected to the fraud, not the amount stolen or lost.

Madoff, the one-time Nasdaq chairman, told investors in financial statements in November 2008 that the nearly \$20 billion they had given him had grown in value to over \$60 billion. In reality, Madoff didn't invest their money and was nearly broke. □

## Guard arrested in death of NY inmate in hot cell

**JAKE PEARSON**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York City jail guard was arrested and charged Monday in connection with the death of a mentally ill inmate who roasted to death in his stifling jail cell. Investigators say Carol Lackner failed to make to check on homeless ex-Marine Jerome Murdough and other inmates at New York's Rikers Island jail and then falsified a logbook to cover it up. The Associated Press first reported the shocking death of the 56-year-old Murdough in the overheated cell, after a city official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Murdough "basically baked to death" when he was left unchecked for at least four hours overnight as malfunctioning equipment caused his cell to overheat.

Murdough's Feb. 15 death — along with the horrifying death of another mentally ill inmate in a similar mental observation unit five months earlier — prompted Mayor Bill de Blasio to convene a task force on how the mentally ill fare in jail. Last week, de Blasio announced that task force's findings, saying he'll spend \$130 million over the next four years to improve how the mentally ill interact with the justice system, before, during and after jail stints. Rikers Island has been under intense scrutiny lately. On Monday, jury selection began for another Rikers guard. Terrence Pendergrass is accused of ignoring the pleas of a dying inmate in 2012 after he swallowed a toxic soap ball. He is charged with one count of depriving the rights of 25-year-old Jason Echevarria. □



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## US Financial Front:

# More Americans to buy homes with 3 percent down

**JOSH BOAK**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Some Americans will soon be able to buy a home with a down payment as low as 3 percent, compared with the current minimum of 5 percent, the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac say.

The new lending guidelines announced by the companies Monday are designed to help more low-income and first-time buyers afford homes. Millions of Americans lost their savings or no longer had the income needed to set aside money for a home in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Recession. That has held down

the sales of houses and condominiums and slowed the economic recovery.

The guidelines are designed to prevent the kind of reckless lending that fueled a housing bubble and eventually triggered the recession.

Borrowers must have enough income to repay loans on a monthly basis for homes that would be their main residence.

This guideline would be intended to limit financial speculation.

"These underwriting guidelines provide a responsible approach to improving access to credit while ensuring safe and sound lending practices," Mel Watt, director of the Federal Housing



This photo shows a home for sale in North Andover, Mass. Some Americans will soon be able to buy a home with a down payment as low as 3 percent, mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac say.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Finance Agency, said in a statement. The FHFA oversees Fannie and Freddie, which have been under government control since

2008 because of the housing bust.

Watt had announced in October that Fannie and Freddie had reached an

agreement with major banks to expand lending. The FHFA declined Monday to say how many borrowers might benefit from having a 3 percent down payment.

The standard down payment for mortgages insured through Fannie and Freddie has been 20 percent. That would mean that a first-time buyer would need \$41,600 in cash to purchase a median-priced home of \$208,300, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Just 29 percent of home purchases in October went to first-time buyers, compared with a historic average of 40 percent, the Realtors reported. □

## American plans \$2 billion upgrade of planes, clubs

**DAVID KOENIG**

**AP Airlines Writer**

**DALLAS (AP)** — American Airlines says it will spend more than \$2 billion to make its planes more pleasant for passengers, the latest salvo in a competition among carriers to attract high-paying frequent fliers. The airline had already announced some of the upgrades but added new ones, including retrofitting some older Boeing and Airbus jets, renovating airport lounges and putting satellite-based Internet access on international flights.

Its rival, Delta, is breaking its two-cabin service into five levels and giving a few goodies to economy-class customers who pay more than the cheapest fares. American Airlines Group Inc. said Monday that it will invest in lie-flat seats, Wi-Fi service on international flights, more entertainment

offerings and a refresh of its airport lounges around the world.

American merged last December with US Airways, although the airlines still operate separately. CEO Doug Parker said the company now has a network of flights to compete with rivals and it will be spending money to create a better product. It is adding hundreds of new planes over the next several years.

Delta said Monday that beginning March 1, it will break its two-cabin offering into five classes: Delta One, formerly called BusinessElite, and first class up front; and comfort plus, main cabin and basic economy in back.

Delta spokesman Paul Skrbec said that "comfort plus" customers will get premium snacks that are now limited to the front cabin. □

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# French Toast Crunch returns as cereal sales turn soggy

**S. SKIDMORE SELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

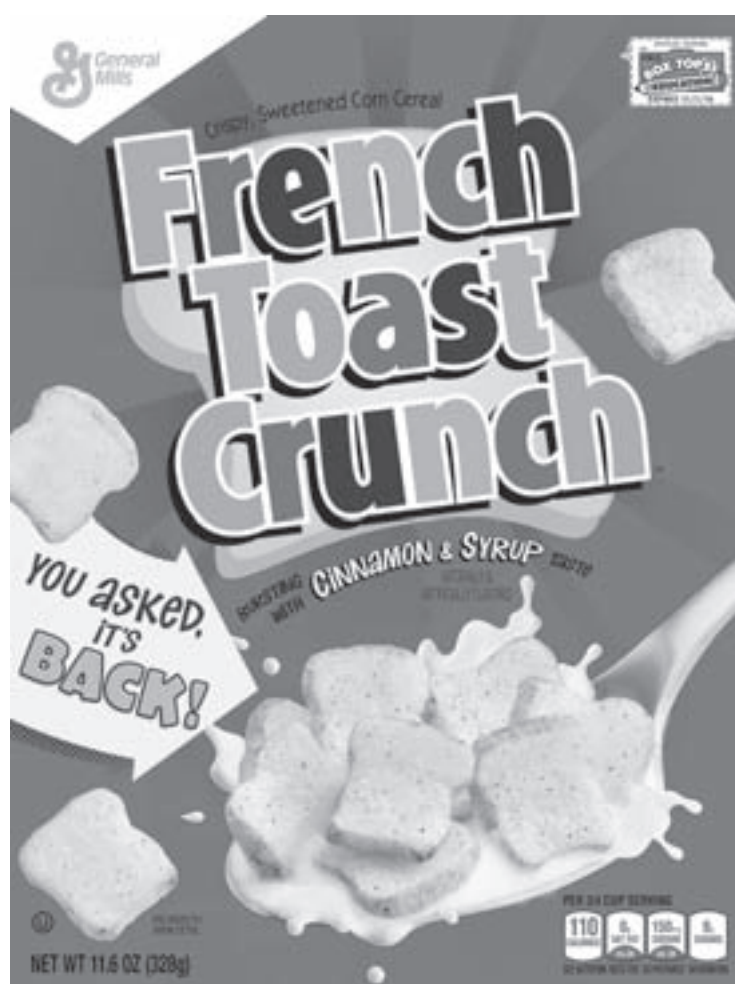
**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** —

General Mills said Monday that it is bringing back popular '90s cereal French Toast Crunch in a nod to nostalgia.

The food maker says the move is purely a response to consumer demand, but it comes as General Mills and other cereal makers are coping with weaker cereal sales due to changing consumer tastes.

Cereal sales have slid as alternatives such as Greek yogurt and breakfast sandwiches have gained popularity. And last month, General Mills, which also makes foods such as Yo-plait yogurt and Progresso soup, cut its sales and profit outlook for the year, citing persistent sales weakness in the food industry.

The company has tweaked other parts of its cereal lineup recently in an attempt to boost sales. It gave Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal a stronger cinnamon taste, made Cheerios with-



This product image provided by General Mills shows packaging for its "French Toast Crunch" cereal. General Mills is bringing back the popular '90s cereal in a nod to nostalgia and in the hopes of boosting its weak cereal sales.

(AP Photo/General Mills)

out genetically modified ingredients and released a new line of Cheerios with added protein.

General Mills said French Toast Crunch, which was discontinued in 2006, is its most requested cereal for rerelease. It said that calls come in almost daily to request its return and thousands of people signed an online petition. A Facebook page dedicated to the matter has nearly 9,000 followers.

Nostalgia is powerful, particularly among millennials, said Waylon Good, marketing manager for French Toast Crunch. The company has tapped into that for its marketing of the cereal — using Miss Cleo, a pop culture icon of the same period known for television ads for her telephone psychic readings, in its marketing of the cereal.

General Mills said it has made a few modifications to the cereal, including reducing the sugar and increasing the whole grains. But Good said the com-

pany has kept the same taste and nearly the same packaging that fans, who are in their 20s or 30s now, remember from childhood. Nostalgia among consumers often helps boost sales. Twinkies flew off shelves when it appeared the treat might go away due to company troubles. PepsiCo's throwback version of Mountain Dew — with original formula, including real sugar, and packaging — was so popular its release was extended. And this is targeting a generation that has retro sneakers on their feet, vintage filters on their cell phone pictures and throwback beer like Pabst in their hands.

General Mills says French Toast Crunch is now a permanent part of its lineup and will be in some stores this month, with a complete national rollout in January.

Shares of Minneapolis-based General Mills Inc. fell 12 cents to \$52.99, in line with broader market trading. □

# Big Mac feels the squeeze as customers get pickier

**CANDICE CHOI**  
**M. CHAPMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hold the pickles, onions and special sauce. The Big Mac is becoming a victim of finicky tastes.

As sales continue to slide in the U.S., McDonald's plans to expand a test that lets people build their own burgers by tapping on a touchscreen to pick the bread, cheese and toppings they want. The company says it will bring the option to 2,000 of its more than 14,000 U.S. locations next year.

The "Create Your Taste" program is a departure for McDonald's, which was

built to deliver food consistently, quickly and affordably. That model has come under pressure as people gravitate toward places like Chipotle, which lets people pick what goes on their bowls and burritos as they walk down a line. According to industry executives and analysts, the ability to customize food orders is becoming more important, particularly among people in their 20s and 30s. McDonald's has already been trying to adjust by installing new kitchen prep tables that can hold more toppings and sauces.

The plans to offer greater customization come as

McDonald's fights to boost declining sales and customer traffic. On Monday, it said U.S. sales fell 4.6 percent in November at established locations. The figure fell 4 percent in the unit that includes the Asia-Pacific region, where the company is fighting to recover from a food supplier scandal. Overall, global sales declined 2.2 percent for the month.

In the U.S., CEO Don Thompson has conceded the company hasn't done enough to keep up with shifting habits and that changes are in store.

"We haven't been changing at the same rate as our customers' eating-out

expectations," Thompson said in October.

Offering greater customization could be a challenge for McDonald's, however. For "complicated" orders, burgers might take as long as five to seven minutes to prepare, Greg Watson, senior vice president of menu innovation, said in a phone interview. That's more than the couple of minutes it should take for regular orders, he said.

The customized burgers are also more expensive than core items like Big Macs, Watson said. But it's not clear whether people will be willing to wait longer or shell out more money for a burger from McDonald's.

Watson said McDonald's hasn't yet decided on expansion of "Create Your Taste" beyond the 2,000 locations next year. In Australia, McDonald's said earlier this year a customized burger option would be expanded nationally. The locations that have the "Create Your Taste" option still offer the regular menu. As for the regular menu, McDonald's plans to remove some items "with slower movement" from the national menu in the U.S. The Bacon Clubhouse burger, which McDonald's introduced this year as a premium offering, could become a regional offering, Watson said. □





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# US General says Islamic State fighters on their heels

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer  
KUWAIT CITY (AP) —

Islamic State fighters have lost the initiative in Iraq and are now "on defense" with far less ability to generate the kind of ground maneuvers that enabled the extremists to capture large chunks of Iraq earlier this year, a senior U.S. general said Monday.

Army Lt. Gen. James Terry, the top commander of Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. campaign to defeat IS, also said the nascent effort to rebuild Iraq's army will soon get a boost from coalition countries that plan to commit roughly 1,500 military trainers. Much of the Iraq army collapsed or proved ineffective in the face of IS's onslaught last summer.

In his first extensive interview since taking command of the counter-Islamic State campaign in October, Terry told a small group of reporters that IS is "on defense, trying to hold what they have gained." He added that the group, which is armed with tanks

and other U.S.-made war equipment captured from the Iraqi army, is "still able to conduct some limited attacks."

Terry said his first priority is to develop more fully an international military coalition against IS.

The U.S. intervened directly starting in August with airstrikes that have damaged IS's fighting force, as well as its economic and logistics bases in Syria. But questions remain about the Iraqis' ability to retake the ground they lost and to sustain a military campaign with President Barack Obama ruling out the use of American ground combat forces.

Terry said he sees no need now for additional U.S. troops in Iraq beyond the extra 1,500 that Obama recently approved. The U.S. mission there is limited to training and advising the Iraqis, as well as coordinating U.S. air power with Iraq ground operations.

"I'm comfortable with the boots on the ground that we have right now," he said.

Asked whether the conflict in Iraq is at a stalemate, Terry said, "In some places it's stalemated; in some places it's to the advantage of the Iraqis," meaning the Iraqis have the up-

prospects for rebuilding the Iraqi army, which is riddled with sectarian issues and other problems. He said it would be months before the Iraqis are ready to launch a major counter-

every day," he said. That comment is all the more notable for the fact that the U.S. invested billions of dollars in developing the Iraqi security forces during more than eight years of



Iraqi security forces are deployed during a military operation to regain control of the villages around the town of Beiji, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 8, 2014. The commander of U.S. forces fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Army Lt. Gen. James Terry says the extremist group has been thrown on the defensive, because coalition airstrikes and other measures are taking a toll on IS ability to communicate.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

per hand now in places like Bayji, site of a key oil refinery north of Baghdad.

Terry spoke cautiously of

offensive.

"While they still have a long way to go, I think they're becoming more capable

war following the American invasion in March 2003 that toppled President Saddam Hussein. □

# Russia, Syria, allies condemn Israeli airstrikes

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia on Monday demanded an explanation for Israeli airstrikes on two areas near Damascus, while the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers called it an act of aggression that proves Israel is "in the same trench" with extremist groups fighting the Syrian government.

Israeli warplanes struck near Damascus' international airport on Sunday, as well as outside a town close to the Lebanese border. The attacks are unlikely to have a big impact.

Israel has already struck inside Syria on several occasions in the course of the country's chaotic civil war, including a series of airstrikes near Damascus in May 2013. Those strikes, according to Israeli officials, targeted shipments of Iranian-made Fateh-110 missiles bound for the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group. Syria's reaction has been relatively mute; in previous cases, Damascus has vowed to retaliate without actually doing so. The Syrian government said Sunday's attacks caused only material damage. Is-

rael has not confirmed the strikes, which Syrian activists said had hit weapons depots.

Appearing on Israel Radio on Monday, Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz would neither confirm nor deny the news.

"We have a very potent defense policy that is oriented toward safeguarding the country and wherever possible preventing the upgrading of weaponry that gives terrorist organizations game-changers or unusually sophisticated means of attack," he said. Syrian Foreign Minister

Walid al-Moallem claimed Israel was trying to compensate for losses incurred by Islamic extremist groups in Syria at the hands of the Syrian army. He did not elaborate.

He spoke Monday at a joint news conference in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Since Syria's conflict began in March 2011, Israel has carried out several airstrikes in Syria that have targeted sophisticated weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-

made missiles, believed to be destined for Hezbollah. Although Israel has never confirmed any airstrikes in Syria, it has laid out "red lines" that define various types of weapons it says Hezbollah cannot be allowed to acquire, including sophisticated guided missiles, anti-aircraft systems and missiles that can strike Israeli naval targets. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashевич said Moscow "is deeply concerned about this dangerous development which requires a detailed investigation." □



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Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid, left, and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni sit following a vote at the Knesset, Israel's parliament in Jerusalem. Israeli lawmakers unanimously voted Monday to dissolve parliament, officially ending the legislature's term two years ahead of schedule and kicking off the country's election campaign ahead of a March 17 nationwide vote.

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

## Israeli parliament dissolves, sets election

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli lawmakers unanimously voted Monday to dissolve parliament, officially ending the legislature's term two years ahead of schedule and kicking off the country's election campaign ahead of a March 17 nationwide vote.

A week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government dramatically disintegrated, the 120-seat Knesset voted 93-0 favor of disbanding and ending one of the shortest serving parliaments in Israeli history.

Early polls show Netanyahu likely returning to power. But a growing coalition of anti-Netanyahu factions threatens to depose the longtime leader.

Israel's government, which took office in early 2013,

had been riven by divisions from the outset over major issues facing the country. Netanyahu's fractious center-right Cabinet had been bickering for weeks over the budget, a housing tax break and a bill that would enshrine into law Israel's status as a Jewish state.

Netanyahu is looking to secure a fourth term as premier by increasing support for his hardline Likud Party. He hopes to secure a strong majority for a "national bloc" that includes his traditional allies of ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's nationalist Yisrael Beitenu faction and the hard line Jewish Home party, which is strongly linked to the West Bank settler movement. This bloc tends to take a hard line in

peace talks with the Palestinians.

In the last vote, the parties earned a combined 61 out of 120 seats in parliament. The majority proved too slim for Netanyahu to rule effectively and he was forced to reach out to two centrist parties, Yesh Atid and Hatnuah, to shore up his majority.

Netanyahu's feuds with these parties led to his decision to fire their ministers and call a new election. Hatnuah leader Tzipi Livni appears to be on the brink of sealing an alliance with Isaac Herzog and his center-left Labor party.

A poll published Monday showed the potential joint list surging past Likud to become the largest party in the next Knesset.

## German party backs off language idea

**GEIR MOULSON**  
**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — One of Germany's governing parties backpedaled Monday from a call for immigrants to speak German even at home, giving way in the face of a storm of criticism and mockery even from allies.

The conservative Christian Social Union was on the defensive over a draft motion drawn up by senior officials for a party conference this week, stating that people wanting permanent residency "should be urged to speak German in public and in the family."

The call came at a time of anxiety in Germany and elsewhere in Europe over immigration and increasing numbers of refugees. Critics viewed it as at best

absurd, at worst a ploy to win votes by pandering to anti-immigrant sentiment.

The general secretary of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, Peter Tauber, said on Twitter it's "none of politicians' business whether I speak Latin, Klingon or Hessian at home," referring to his home region's dialect.

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said no one in his center-left party "would come up with the idea of banning immigrants from speaking their mother tongue, and I am sure that we will never reach this level of political dementia."

The Turkish Community in Germany, representing Germany's large Turkish minority, called it a "misanthropic, unconstitutional, absurd proposal."

## Greek govt gambles on early voting

**DEREK GATOPOULOS**  
**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — Greece's conservative-led government on Monday called for a key vote in parliament for the country's new president late this month — in a surprise move that will determine its survival in the recession-weary country. Government spokesman Sofia Voultepsi said the vote would be held Dec. 17, with possible later rounds held in the following 12 days. The vote had not been expected to be held until late February. The government needs the support from opposition lawmakers to avoid a stalemate and a snap general election, but is trailing in opinion polls to the anti-bailout Syriza party and

facing widespread public discontent after a six-year recession.

The move was announced within an hour of Eurozone bailout lenders backing a Greek request to extend the rescue lending program for another two months. Voultepsi said the presidential vote was shifted so Greece would be in a stronger position to negotiate with the lenders, who have provided €240 billion (\$294 billion) in rescue funds in return for draconian spending cuts.

"The political uncertainty must end now," Voultepsi said. Under voting rules, parliament requires a super-majority to elect a president, whose role is largely ceremonial, for a five-year term.



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## Small investors add fuel to China's big stock boom

**JOE McDONALD**  
AP Business Writer

**BEIJING (AP)** — Gong Bin, a marketing employee in Shanghai, watched Chinese stock prices gallop upward for months before he finally gave in and put the equivalent of 2½ months' salary into the surging market.

In two months, Gong made a 10 percent return on his 20,000 yuan (\$3,300) investment.

"My colleagues were always talking about the money they made from the market, so I thought, why not?" said Gong, 27. "It turned out to be the right decision."

Even as a downturn in the world's second-largest economy deepens, Gong and a growing army of other small investors are riding a boom in China's volatile stock markets.

Buoyed by hopes for an economic rebound combined with outright cheerleading by the state press, the market benchmark has soared 49 percent since June, including 8 percent last week alone.

Economic growth fell to a five-year low of 7.3 percent last quarter but investor sentiment was recharged by Beijing's surprise interest rate cut Nov. 22 that is expected to put a floor under the slump.

"Investors anticipate the economy will bottom out sometime in the spring, and they are buying equities to take advantage of that," said economist Dariusz Kowalczyk at Credit Agricole CIB.

Still, he cautioned, "I think the prospects for the economy are just not good enough to take the equity market significantly higher."

In a new sign of economic weakness, customs data Monday showed China's

imports fell 6.7 percent in November compared with a year earlier instead of recording the small gain fore-

up another 2.8 percent. Small investors have repeatedly been burned by booms and busts in Chi-

stocks and real estate. Zhao Shizhong, who works in finance for a chain of restaurants, said he has

"This past week, I did more trading than usual, bought some and sold some," said Zhao. "I won't trade more in the near future. I feel it is time to control risk."

State media and China's securities regulator have warned investors not to act recklessly. But in a system in which the stock market is heavily influenced by government policy changes and often has little to do with economic performance, those mildly worded cautions are drowned out by a drumbeat of official calls for them to pile into stocks.

"China needs a magnificent bull market," said the China Securities Journal on Monday.

It said robust stock markets are required as part of the Communist Party's plans to make the economy more market-oriented and efficient.

China's communist-era stock market dates to 1990, when the Shanghai Stock Exchange began trading shares of a handful of state-owned companies in a crowded hotel room. □



Investor share a light moment as they check on stock prices at a brokerage house in Fuyang in central China's Anhui province. Economic growth fell to a five-year low of 7.3 percent in the latest quarter but investor sentiment was recharged by Beijing's surprise interest rate cut Nov. 22 that is expected to put a floor under the slump. (AP Photo)

casters expected. Exports grew by an unexpectedly weak 4.7 percent, down from October's 10.6 percent rate.

Despite that, the Shanghai benchmark ended the day

nese stock markets that are rife with complaints of fraud and insider trading. But with interest paid on savings accounts low, Chinese investors appear willing to make big bets on

600,000 to 700,000 yuan (\$100,000-\$110,000) invested. He said his biggest trade lately was 60,000 to 70,000 yuan (\$10,000 to \$11,000) — the equivalent of a year's salary.

## Eurozone extends Greek bailout for 2 months

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — European finance ministers on Monday gave bailed-out Greece a two-month extension of its financial lifeline as they argue about whether Athens should impose more budget austerity to meet conditions for the last installment of aid.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, head of the group of finance ministers from countries that use the euro, said after the meeting in Brussels that the group would say yes to a request from Greece to push its current bailout deal into next year.

Greece's current bailout program was slated to run out at the end of the year and the country was to switch to a standby credit line with less onerous conditions. But its latest budget has failed to pass muster with international creditors. That means Greece hasn't been able to pass the final review of its compliance with its rescue package and tap the last bailout loan installment of 1.8 billion euros (\$2.2 billion).

Greece was rescued from a financial and economic crisis with the help of 240 billion euros (\$297 billion) in loans from other eurozone governments and the International Monetary Fund. The country also defaulted on government bonds.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras is eager to reach the end of the aid program as the country recovers economically because the loans came with politically unpopular conditions.

Greece has had to restrain government spending and raise taxes to try to reduce debt. Samaras said the European Commission and IMF argue that the country's current budget has a 1.7 billion euro hole that must be filled with more cuts — a position Samaras rejects.

Samaras faces the possibility of new elections next year where he would compete against the left-wing Syriza party, which has denounced the bailout deal. □



## After Guantanamo: 6 prisoners start new lives in Uruguay

**L. HABERKORN  
BEN FOX  
Associated Press**

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)** — Six men who were locked away for more than 12 years on the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay spent Monday in the seclusion of a military hospital in Uruguay's capital, speaking to family by phone, getting medical check-ups and preparing for a gradu-

strictly monitored during meetings in Guantanamo, said it was an emotional experience to see al-Shaabani experiencing freedom for the first time in years. Al-Shaabani spoke by phone with his parents, who are in a refugee camp in a country Mone declined to identify, fleeing the turmoil of their homeland. "He's relaxed, he's not flinching every time there's

move to a residential facility to study Spanish, learn about Uruguayan culture and society and gradually get used to their new home before setting off on their own, Mone said. "As soon as Ali is ready, we talked about maybe going out and going for a walk," Mone said. "I know he's really looking forward to that, taking a long walk." All six were detained as sus-



**Cori Crider, center, lawyer of the human rights group Reprieve, that represents former Guantanamo prisoner, Abu Wa'el Dhiab, waves to the press as she leaves the military hospital in Montevideo, Uruguay, Monday, Dec. 8, 2014. Six Guantanamo Bay prisoners sent to Uruguay to be resettled as refugees can to bring their families, get jobs and cheer for the local soccer team of their choice, the country's defense minister said Monday, and one issued a letter thanking the country for taking them in.**

(AP Photo/Matilde Campodonico)

al introduction to their new lives in this South American country. All but one of the former prisoners milled about a suite of rooms behind the marble columns of the Central Hospital of the Armed Forces, said Michael Mone, a lawyer who was with them. Abu Wa'el Dhiab, a Syrian thin and pale after a prolonged hunger strike at Guantanamo, was apparently too weak to spend much time out of bed. "The other men are all up on their feet. They have big smiles on their faces and they are very happy to be in Uruguay after 12 plus years of incarceration," said Mone, a Boston-based lawyer for one of the men, Ali Hussein al-Shaabani, also from Syria. Mone, accustomed to his client being shackled and

a knock on the door or the close of a gate," the lawyer said. "He just seems so much more alive than when I used to see him in Guantanamo." The four Syrians, one Palestinian and a Tunisian arrived in Uruguay over the weekend as refugees, the first prisoners from the U.S. base in Cuba to be sent to South America. Defense Minister Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro welcomed them to settle with a reference to the passion for soccer for which Uruguay is known. He told local radio Carve that he expects the six to find "a job, work to put bread on the table, bring the family, live in peace and sit in the stands of a stadium, becoming a fan of some soccer team." Within days, the men are expected to

pected militants with ties to al-Qaeda in 2002 but were never charged. They had been cleared for release since 2009 but could not be sent home and the U.S. struggled to find countries willing to take them. While recent polls indicated most Uruguayans opposed asylum for the men, reaction to their arrival was muted. Sen. Ope Pasquet of the opposition Colorado Party said on Twitter that he agreed with the asylum for humanitarian reasons, but he added that Congress should have been consulted. One of the men, Abedhadi Omar Faraj, released a letter thanking Uruguayans for accepting the group, and even said he'd already become a fan of the country's national soccer team. □

## India: New Delhi bans Uber after alleged rape by driver

**KATY DAIGLE  
Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — The Indian capital on Monday banned taxi-booking service Uber after a woman accused one of its drivers of raping her.

Transport official Satish Mathur made the announcement as the 32-year-old suspect appeared in a New Delhi court.

The court ordered Shiv Kumar Yadav held for three days for police questioning over allegations that he raped the finance company employee after being hired to ferry her home from a dinner engagement on Friday night. The court also ordered Yadav's cellphone confiscated, according to Press Trust of India.

The case, almost two years after a young woman was fatally gang raped on a bus in the capital, has renewed national anger over sexual violence in India and demands for more effort to ensure women's safety.

The government rushed through legislation last year to double prison terms for rape to 20 years and to criminalize voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women. But activists say much more needs to be done, including better educating youths and adding basic infrastructure such as street lights and public bathrooms.

The CEO of San Francisco-based Uber, Travis Kalanick, said the company would do "everything to bring the perpetrator to justice and to support the victim and her family in her recovery."

He also sought to deflect some of the blame on to officials, saying the company would work with the government to establish clear background checks that are "currently absent in their commercial transportation licensing programs."

It was not immediately

clear if Uber itself performed any background check, nor was it clear whether Yadav would even have been flagged. Police told Press Trust of India they were working to verify Yadav's claims that he had been acquitted of rape charges in 2011, after spending seven months in jail. PTI did not give any further details or name the police source.

The New Delhi ban is a blow for Uber, which has courted acclamation and controversy around the world with a service based on hailing taxis from a smartphone app. It has faced restrictions in other countries after licensed taxi operators claimed the service was competing unfairly.

The service, which uses private cars rather than licensed cabs, promises a quicker response time that is often less than 10 minutes. Drivers respond using their own Uber-provided smartphones mounted on the dashboard and follow a GPS map to an exact location.

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the government "strongly condemns this dastardly act" and pledged justice in the case. He said the 26-year-old victim had fallen asleep during the ride home. When she woke up, she found the car parked in a secluded place. The driver then threatened her, raped her and then took her home around 1 a.m. Saturday.

Police arrested the driver Sunday night in his hometown of Mathura, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) from the capital, after he had abandoned the Uber-registered car and fled New Delhi. The car has been brought to Delhi for forensic examination, Singh told parliament.

Dozens of angry protesters rallied outside the home minister's house on Monday morning to demand more action to ensure women's safety. □





## Wedding Bells for Hong Kong Couple at the Radisson Aruba Resort

--The bride lived in Aruba 25 years ago and chose Aruba as her wedding destination!

**PALM BEACH** - The romantic wedding ceremony of Karen Cheung and George Ng took place on the beautiful beach of the Radisson Aruba Resort on December 5th. The Hong Kong based couple exchanged their nuptials in the presence of their family and friends who travelled from the US, Canada as well as from far Asia to be with them on this special day.

Cheung is no stranger to the island. Her family settled down in Aruba in the 1970s, and operated a popular bar located in Dakota for more than 30 years. In June of 1988, Cheung followed her parents to Aruba from Hong Kong and resided here for a year. Cheung visited St. Dominicus College during this time before returning to Hong Kong in 1989.

Twenty years later, in 2009, Cheung travelled to this beautiful island again. The unforgettable trip to this happy island made her realize that she wanted



to make it a mission to revisit this paradise every five years. Little did she know that five years later, she would be accompanied on this trip by her fiancé and be married in Aruba.

"I love to give the best experiences to my wife", said the groom. "The peaceful

and colorful environment, harmonious culture, nice people and beautiful scenes of Aruba made this island the perfect wedding destination for us". Celebrating their wedding in a naturally beautiful setting with the crystal-blue waters of the Caribbean,

and stunning white-sandy beach, was a dream come true for the couple.

A Hong Kong designer created a custom logo for the couple's wedding, which perfectly matches the official Aruba logo and colors. The wedding details and coordination were in the

great hands of Lissy Lampe from Ceremonies & Celebrations. The beach blessing was followed by an elegant and intimate dinner at Sunset Grille, the resort's award-winning signature restaurant.

Best wishes to the newlyweds! □





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## Clown Doctors and foundation 'Mi Por' host Sinterklaas party

**ORANJESTAD** - Local volunteers from both foundation "MI POR" (I CAN) and the local Clown Doctors, who brighten up lives of hospitalized kids, organized a Sinterklaas party for the handicapped young children of Aruba. Lots of candy and of course gifts were handed out by the famous Zwarte Pieten, called Black Petes, to the kids who carried smiles from ear to ear over their cute little faces. To top off this super party, held at Esmeralda's residence, pictures were taken with the children sitting on real Harley Davidson bikes, brought into the yard by members of the Camacuri Harley Davidson Club Aruba on their famous "toy run". Volunteer Aletta du Pon and the group of bikers are known on the island to help out wherever and whoever they can, throughout entire the year. We don't have to mention,



and the pictures will prove it, that this was a Sinterklaas

celebration the kids will NEVER forget.





## ***ALHYDRAN*, a highly recommended medical moisture-regulating gel cream in burn clinics worldwide now locally available.**

Tourists and locals love Aruba Aloes' skincare and sun care products, many of them become loyal customers once they have tried it, ordering their products online or visiting the shops once they are back on Aruba. But what most people don't know is that Aruba Aloe also produces a highly concentrated moisture regulating gel-cream called *Alhydran* which is used for the aftercare treatment of burn scars, surgical wounds, redness, itching, rashes after laser therapy or chemotherapy and other scar tissue. This very effective locally produced cream has become one of the new standards in scar treatment in university hospitals and burn clinics worldwide. Sold in over 22 countries, ranging from countries in Europe to even South Korea, this unique Aruban export product is locally available in all Aruba Aloe stores, [www.arubaaloe.com](http://www.arubaaloe.com) and since the month of June in *MEDIQ* pharmacies.

### **A success story**

Wim Arns, a middle-aged Dutch man, got severely burned on his hands and face when cigar ashes drifted down in the bucket of paraffin oil he was holding, causing a spontaneous explosion. Wim: "The explosion caused the burning paraffin oil to run all over my hands and a burst of flames burnt my whole face. It was such a painful and horrible experience I thought I would never recover and look normal again. After being treated in the Burn Centre clinic in Rotterdam, the doctors referred me to a skin therapist in my hometown where I should continue the sensitive after care of the burn scars. My skin felt really tight and itchy and I wanted a cream that would make my skin more flexible and stop the itching. That's when the therapist recommended *Alhydran*. Already within an hour of applying the cream, I felt my skin had more space to breathe, the itching stopped and it generally felt more comfortable. My face has healed completely, the skin has total flexibility again and the same counts for my hands. Therapy will also have contributed to this, but that the skin moves freely without tearing and that the itching is all gone, I attribute that to the use of *Alhydran*" said a very grateful Wim.

### **Alhydran; through the eyes of a professional**

Rina Rijkenberg is a certified skin therapist in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands. In her practice she comes into daily contact with people that have a broad range of skin problems and complaints. As a specialist, she has different treatments and products to opt from, but *Alhydran* is her nr 1 solution. Rina: "A lot of complaints are that the skin feels dry, itchy, red, sensitive and painful, which are symptoms frequently associated with burn victims, lymph edema patients, people that have undergone radiation therapy, have general scar tissue, acne or excessive hair. All this can be jointly caused by a deregulation in the moisture levels of the skin, causing the skin to feel dry, itchy and inflexible.



In the case of lymph edema patients, we treat them with lymph drainage paired with creams such as *Alhydran* to regulate the moisture levels of the skin, because with these patients often this isn't functioning properly either. I think that the secret to *Alhydran* mainly is that it regulates the moisture levels of the skin continuously in an unprecedented way. Apply it onto your skin in the morning and it will remain active throughout the day, benefitting you with a less itchy and painful skin. The most important ingredient of the cream is very high dosage of pure Aloe Vera gel delivering the hydration, followed by pure Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Jojoba oil prolonging the activity. For us specialists the most important benefit of the cream is the patients' experience and that they can actually see and feel their skin healing" says Rina confidently.

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## Heisman finalists: Mariota, Cooper and Gordon

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- The Heisman Trophy finalists would make one heck of an offense.

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, Alabama receiver Amari Cooper and record-breaking Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon are set to make the trip to New York for the Heisman presentation after the finalists were announced on Monday.

Mariota is considered the clear front-runner to win the 80th Heisman on Saturday night in New York. He would become the first Oregon player to earn college football's most famous player of the year trophy. Mariota and the second-seeded Ducks will face Florida State and last year's Heisman winner Jameis Winston at the Rose Bowl in the College Football Playoff semifinals on Jan. 1. Cooper helped Alabama earn the top seed in the playoff. The Crimson Tide plays Ohio State at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Winston becomes the seventh player since 2003 to take a shot at a Heisman repeat and come up short. Ohio State's Archie Griffin is the only player to win two Heismans. Finalists are determined by percentage of votes received from 929 media members and former winners. Mariota didn't even break the top 10 in the Heisman voting last season, but entered 2014 as one of the preseason favorites. He delivered a spectacular season in his third year as the Ducks' starter. He is the nation's top-rated passer (186.3) and has thrown for 3,783 yards and 38 touchdowns with just two interceptions.

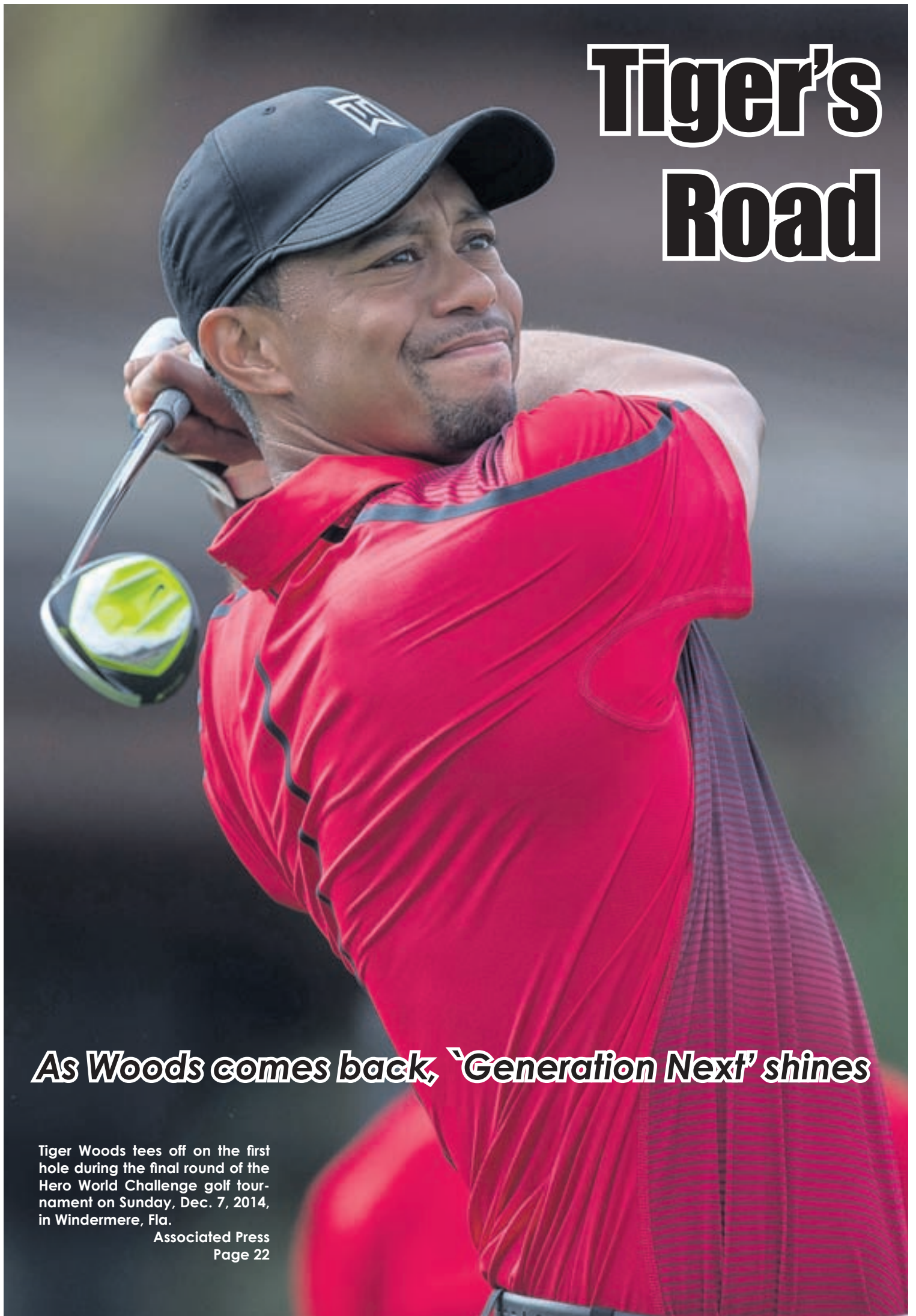
Continued on Next Page

# Tiger's Road


## As Woods comes back, 'Generation Next' shines

Tiger Woods tees off on the first hole during the final round of the Hero World Challenge golf tournament on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Windermere, Fla.

Associated Press  
Page 22







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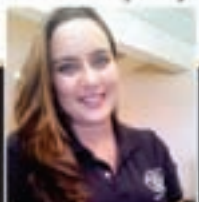
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## Heisman

Continued from Page 17

He also has run for 669 yards and 14 touchdowns for the Pac-12 champions. He is Oregon's third finalist, joining quarterback Joey Harrington (2001) and running back LaMichael James (2010).

Gordon leads the nation with 2,336 yards rushing and 179.7 yards per game. Gordon broke the single-game FBS rushing record with 408 yards against Nebraska, a record that only stood for a week.

He needs another huge game in the Outback Bowl against Auburn to break Barry Sanders' single-season record of 2,628, set in his Heisman winning season of 1988 with Oklahoma State. He is the fourth Wisconsin running back to be a finalist. The Badgers have had two Heisman winners: Alan Ameche (1954) and Ron Dayne (1999). Cooper set a Southeastern Conference record with 115 catches for 1,656 yards and 14 touchdowns for the top-ranked Crimson Tide. Cooper is the fourth Alabama finalist since Mark Ingram became the Tide's first winner in 2009.

"This will be my first trip to New York City, and I can't put into words how much it means to me and my family," Cooper said in a statement. "I am privileged to have the opportunity to represent our team at the

Heisman ceremony. None of this would be possible without my coaches and teammates."

Heisman voters submit a ballot with their top three selections.

Mariota, Gordon and Cooper emerged as such strong candidates late in the season that the rest of the field drifted away. The last time voters picked only three Heisman finalists was 2012, when Johnny Manziel won in a landslide vote against Kansas State's Collin Klein and Notre Dame's Manti Te'o.

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott made a strong push in October, but tailed off in November as the Bulldogs lost twice. Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett was making a late-season surge before he was injured in the regular-season finale against Michigan and had to miss the Big Ten championship game.

TCU's Trevone Boykin, another dual-threat quarterback, had numbers that rivaled Mariota's in some areas: 3,714 yards and 30 touchdowns in 12 games. Indiana's Tevin Coleman also surpassed 2,000 yards rushing and his average per carry was just a tick below Gordon's (7.54 to 7.56).□



In this Nov. 15, 2014, file photo, Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper (9) catches a 50-yard pass against Mississippi State defensive back Kendrick Market (26) in the first half of an NCAA college football game in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Associated Press



In this Nov. 15, 2014, file photo, Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon (25) breaks away from Nebraska's Corey Cooper for a 62-yard touchdown run during the first half of an NCAA college football game in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press



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# Davis scores 23, Pelicans top Lakers 104-87

The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Anthony Davis scored 23 points as the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Los Angeles Lakers 104-87 on Sunday.

Jrue Holiday had 22 points and eight assists, helping the Pelicans end a four-game road losing streak that included a 27-point drubbing by the Warriors on Thursday and a 20-point loss to the Clippers on Saturday night.

Bryant had 14 points in 31 minutes for the Lakers (5-16). Bryant and Davis entered Sunday 1-2 in the league in scoring average at 25.8 points and 25.3, respectively.

**GRIZZLIES 103, HEAT 87**

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)** — Jon Leuer scored a season-high 20 points and matched his career best with 12 rebounds, leading the Grizzlies to the win.

Mike Conley added 18 points for Memphis, connecting on all eight of his shots, and Zach Randolph and Courtney Lee finished with 17 points apiece. Memphis went 8 for 13 from 3-point range and shot 59 percent from the field overall.

Dwyane Wade scored 25 points in Miami's fourth straight loss. Josh McRoberts added 14 points.

**HAWKS 96, NUGGETS 84**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Paul Millsap scored 23 points, Kyle Korver had 15 and Atlanta earned its sixth straight win. The Hawks got off to a fast start, bolting to a 57-36 halftime lead.

Al Horford and DeMarre Carroll each had 11 points and combined for 17 Atlanta rebounds.

Wilson Chandler finished with a season-high 29

points for the Nuggets, and Timofey Mozgov had 14 points. Chandler and Mozgov combined for 21 rebounds.

Denver began the season with a win over Detroit before losing seven of eight. A Nov. 17 victory at Cleveland started a 7-1 stretch, but the Nuggets have dropped their last three.

**CELTICS 101, WIZARDS 93**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Jeff Green scored 25 points for Boston, and reserve Marcus Thornton had 21.

Rajon Rondo had a triple-double with 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for the Celtics, who won their third straight after a season-high five-game losing streak.

Rasual Butler scored 14 of his 22 points in the final quarter for the Wizards (13-6), who failed to match the franchise's best start since 1968-69.

Paul Pierce, who played for the Celtics for 15 seasons and was a member of their 2008 championship team before being traded to Brooklyn prior to last season, scored 16 points for Washington.

Wizards star John Wall had 17 points, 14 assists and eight rebounds.

**MAVERICKS 125, BUCKS 102**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Chandler Parsons scored 28 points, helping Dallas roll to the win.

The Mavericks built a big lead with a 12-0 run in the first quarter and didn't trail again in their second victory in five days over the Bucks. Parsons had nine in the opening period.

Dirk Nowitzki, who was rested for the game at Milwaukee on Wednesday and scored a season-low 10 points Friday, bounced

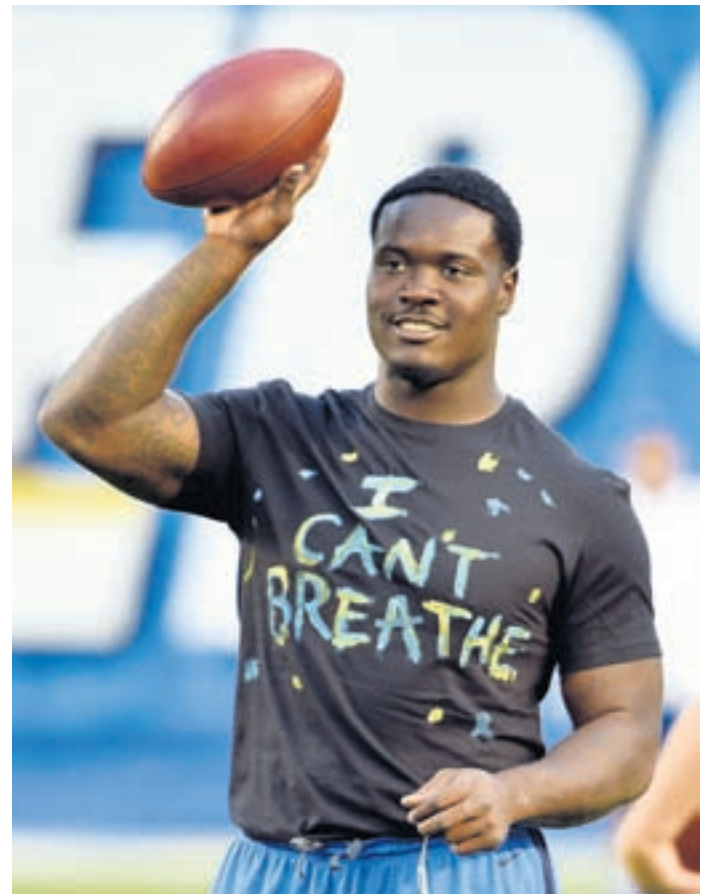
back with 21 and Monta Ellis added 19.

All five Bucks starters scored in double figures, led by Giannis Antetokounmpo's 18 points.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 103, KNICKS 99**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Portland regrouped after blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, recording its fourth straight victory.

**In other NBA games it was Boston 101, Washington 93; Atlanta 96, Denver 84; Memphis 103, Miami 87; Oklahoma City 96, Detroit 94; Dallas 125, Milwaukee 102; Portland 103, New York 99; and New Orleans 104, L.A. Lakers 87.** □



New Orleans Pelicans' Anthony Davis goes to the hoop against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## James is looking for 'I Can't Breathe' shirt

**NEW YORK (AP)** — LeBron James said Sunday he is looking for an "I Can't Breathe" shirt, and he could wear it before a game like Derrick Rose did. Rose warmed up in the shirt Saturday before Chicago played Golden State. It refers to a New York man who died July 17 after a police officer placed him in a chokehold when he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. A recording of the arrest showed Eric Garner gasping, "I can't breathe" during the fatal encounter, and thousands have protested a grand jury decision not to indict the officer since the announcement on Wednesday.

"It was spectacular,"

James said of the shirt. "I loved it. I'm looking for one."

Asked if he would wear one Monday when Cleveland visited the Brooklyn Nets, James said: "It's possible."

Britain's Prince William and Princess Kate are scheduled to attend the game. "It's a huge honor," James said at the Cavaliers' practice. "The stuff you read about, people like them only in books growing up." □



San Diego Chargers outside linebacker Melvin Ingram wears a shirt with the words, "I Can't Breathe," while warming up before playing the New England Patriots in an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in San Diego. More professional athletes were wearing "I Can't Breathe" messages Sunday in protest of a grand jury ruling not to indict an officer in the death of a New York man.

Associated Press





Chicago Bears wide receiver Brandon Marshall adjusts his headset before talking with ESPN 1000 radio hosts Tom Wadle and Marc Silverman during their show on Monday, Dec. 8, 2014, in Algonquin, Ill.

## Bears' Marshall goes on IR, out for rest of season

8), who will miss the playoffs for the seventh time in eight years. Seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Briggs (groin) and cornerback Charles Tillman (torn right triceps) have also suffered season-ending injuries. Marshall has 773 receptions for 9,771 yards and 65 touchdowns in nine seasons with Denver, Miami and Chicago. Since entering the NFL in 2006, he ranks third in the league in receptions and fifth in yards receiving

and touchdown catches. In three seasons with the Bears, he has 279 receptions for 3,524 receiving yards and 31 touchdowns. Besides placing Marshall on injured reserve, the Bears elevated receiver Josh Bellamy from the practice squad. Bellamy has appeared in nine games over three seasons with Kansas City (2012), Washington (2013) and Chicago (2014), playing mostly on special teams. □

Associated Press

**LAKE FOREST, Illinois (AP)** — Chicago Bears star receiver Brandon Marshall was placed on injured reserve Monday because of rib and lung injuries and will miss the rest of the season. Marshall broke two ribs and hurt his lung in the second quarter of Thursday's 41-28

loss to the Dallas Cowboys. The five-time Pro Bowl receiver was hit in the right side by the knee of Dallas defensive back Barry Church after making a catch and was taken from the stadium in an ambulance. Marshall is out of the hospi-

tal, but he won't be suiting up again this season. He was limited by ankle injuries early in the year and finished with 61 catches for 721 yards, ending a string a seven straight 1,000-yard seasons. Losing Marshall is just another blow for the Bears (5-



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# David Perron leads Oilers over Sharks 2-1

**EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)** — David Perron scored the game winner midway through the third period as the Edmonton Oilers beat the San Jose Sharks and snapped an 11-game losing streak on Sunday. Nail Yakupov also scored for the Oilers (7-15-5), who won at home for the first time in nine games.

Edmonton got its first win against a Western Conference opponent—moving to 1-12-4 in the conference. Tye McGinn scored the lone goal for the Sharks (14-11-4), who had a four-game winning streak halted.

There was no scoring in the first period, but Edmonton was the better team, putting 11 shots on Sharks goalie Alex Stalock, while San Jose only had two shots on Oilers starter Ben Scrivens.

## RED WINGS 3, HURRICANES 1

**RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP)** —Tomas Tatar scored two goals and Pavel Datsyuk added a goal and two assists, leading Detroit over Carolina.

Petr Mrazek made 34 saves for the Red Wings, who have won three in a row and seven of eight.

Jay McClement scored for

Carolina, which has lost three of four. Cam Ward stopped 19 shots.

It was Hurricanes coach Bill Peters' first game against his former boss and mentor Mike Babcock. Peters was an assistant to Babcock for three seasons in Detroit.

## SENATORS 4, CANUCKS 3

**OTTAWA (AP)** — Erik Karlsson scored 1:21 into overtime to give Ottawa a victory over Vancouver Canucks.

Mike Zibanejad had two goals and two assists, David Legwand also scored and Craig Anderson stopped 30 shots for the Senators. Ottawa rallied from three goals down to snap a five-game losing streak (0-4-1). Radim Vrbata, Kevin Bieksa and Brad Richardson scored for Vancouver, and Eddie Lack had 41 saves.

The Senators' comeback bid started midway through the second as Legwand scored a power-play goal with 9:07 remaining in the period. Zibanejad made it 3-2 with 5:48 left as he picked up his own rebound and banked it in off Yannick Weber, and then tied with 1:02 left in the period with a backhand past Lack.

## DUCKS 4, JETS 3



Detroit Red Wings' Tomas Tatar (21) crashes into Carolina Hurricanes' Alexander Semin (28), of Russia, taking him off the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014.

Associated Press

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Kyle Palmieri scored 53 seconds into overtime to lift Anaheim over Winnipeg Jets 4-3.

Ryan Getzlaf added three assists for Anaheim (18-6-5), including the assist on Palmieri's winner and extended his point streak to five games. Getzlaf has two goals and eight assists dur-

ing his current streak.

Rene Bourque scored his first goal of the year for the Ducks and Jakob Silfverberg and Ryan Kesler also scored goals.

Jacob Trouba, Dustin Byfuglien and Andrew Ladd replied for Winnipeg (14-9-5). Both Jets' goals came on the power play. Ondrej Pavelec made 21

saves.

Anaheim has won four straight.

The loss snaps the Jets' two-game win streak. Winnipeg earned points in its last six games, going 4-0-2 dating back to Oct. 26.

Goalie Frederik Andersen made 27 saves in his 15th consecutive start for the Ducks. □

# Paul MacLean fired as coach of Ottawa Senators



In this Oct. 9, 2014, file photo, Ottawa Senators head coach Paul MacLean talks with his players in the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Nashville Predators in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Paul MacLean was fired as coach of the Ottawa Senators on Monday, less than 18 months since he was the NHL's coach of the year. The coaching dismissal was the first in the NHL this season and comes with the team off to an 11-11-5 start. Team executives had problems with MacLean dating to last season when the Senators missed the playoffs. Assistant Dave Cameron, a favorite of owner Eugene Melnyk, is believed to be in line to succeed MacLean. The expectation was that his promotion would be on interim basis. Ottawa general manager Bryan Murray was to speak at a news conference Monday at Canadian Tire Centre.

MacLean, who previously worked as an assistant to Mike Babcock in Anaheim and Detroit, was in the first season of a three-year deal.

The Senators, widely believed to have the lowest payroll in the league, are 10th in the Eastern Conference. They have struggled since the retirement of longtime captain Daniel Alfredsson, who was honored in a pregame ceremony last week.

MacLean wore out his welcome among his players with defensive tactics that led to many games in which the team was out-shot. Through 27 games, Ottawa has given up the second-most shots in the league behind only the Buffalo Sabres. □



# As Woods rebuild, a younger generation shines

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**WINDEMERE, Florida (AP)**

— Tiger Woods appears to be on the road to recovery again, only it's no longer a question of how soon before he reaches full speed. There are a lot more cars on the road now. Faster ones, too.

Woods acknowledged as much before the Hero World Challenge began when he jokingly said, "Father Time remains undefeated."

He still has plenty of power when he's healthy and swings freely. But there's a long list of players who hit it farther.

"We all eventually are losing some of the things we are able to do when we were younger," Woods said. "But there's other ways to go around a golf course. ... You can win at a very late age because you don't have to physically dominate anybody. You don't have to physically beat anybody. You just have to beat the golf course."

That's a recipe for winning, but not for being the best in the sport.

That label belongs to 25-year-old Rory McIlroy, an undisputed title at the



**Tiger Woods tees off from the fourth hole during the final round of the Hero World Challenge golf tournament on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in Windermere, Fla.**

moment. The most consistent threat in the majors this year was 25-year-old Rickie Fowler, who played in the final group twice and finished in the top five in all of them.

The latest arrival is 21-year-old Jordan Spieth, who showed off his potential not because of the fields he beat (strength or size) but

because of the stamps in his passport. In three weeks in three corners of the world, Spieth finished one shot out of a playoff in Japan, won by six shots in the Australian Open against a field that included McIlroy and Adam Scott, and then overwhelmed an 18-man field of top-50 players in Florida with a 10-shot vic-

tory.

One of the more telling comments after he won at Isleworth was how Spieth defined his target.

"In order to take it to the next level and try and win majors, I've got to look to Rory," Spieth said. "He's the youngest guy, the one with the most success. He's No. 1 in the world and setting the bar. He's the one we're all chasing."

Woods is now part of the chase.

He did not say where he would start in 2015, but here's a sobering thought: If Woods does not play better than he did at Isleworth, there's a mathematical chance he'll fall out of the top 50 by March and not be eligible for the first World Golf Championship at Doral.

This isn't the first time Woods has returned from an injury-induced layoff. But it's the first time he is coming back from injury and retooling his swing under a new coach. This could take time, and that's something Woods doesn't have at this stage in his career. He turns 39 at the end of the month.

Can he get back to where he was? Probably not.

Can he get back to No. 1 in the world? Certainly.

The last time he was in this position, it took five victories for Woods to climb back to No. 1, along with a mini-slump by McIlroy. Both are capable of doing that again.

Woods is so popular as a golfer, and he demands so much attention, that it's easy to fall into a trap of measuring his progress without considering the rest of the field.

When he opened with a 77 at Isleworth, it was easy to blame that on rust because he had not faced any competition since the PGA Championship. Except that Steve Stricker had not played since the PGA and he opened with a 67.

Woods made progress in the second round. He was attacking.

He was making birdies. He was 4 under through 16 holes, which ordinarily would seem like a good score. Except that the guy playing alongside him, Patrick Reed, was 9 under through 16 holes.

The competition has never been deeper — and as it relates to Woods, younger. He is responsible for that. Most of these rising stars, if not all, grew up watching Woods destroy his competition. They learned by watching him. It was different for an older generation of players who only saw Woods when he arrived on the PGA Tour, and then didn't know what hit them. "He was the best anyone had seen," Reed said. "He was so much better than anyone else at the time. With me growing up and watching that, I tried to copy his mental strength and go from there."

And how does one copy mental strength?

"Be stubborn," Reed said. "Focus on what you're doing and not anyone around you. You could see it just by looking at him in the eyes. If looks could kill, he would literally kill you. It's not because he's not a good guy. He was just so focused and determined to play well. And he obviously gets it. That's what I'm trying to do." □

## Diamondbacks finalize \$68.5M deal with Cuban outfielder Tomas



**In this March 9, 2013, file photo, Cuba's Yasmany Tomas hits a three-run home run off Taiwan pitcher Yang Yao-hsun in the fourth inning of their World Baseball Classic second-round game in Tokyo.**

**Associated Press**

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Cuban outfielder Yasmany Tomas

and the Arizona Diamondbacks have finalized a

\$68.5 million, six-year contract.

Arizona said Monday the deal was signed a day earlier in the Dominican Republic.

Diamondbacks general manager Dave Stewart says "the opportunity to find a power bat like Tomas does not come along very often and we are extremely excited for him to join the D-backs."

Tomas, 24, hit .375 (6 for 16) for Cuba with two homers and five RBIs in last year's World Baseball Classic. The Diamondbacks may shift him to third base.

Stewart says "we believe that he can have a real impact on our lineup in the years to come." □



# E-cigarette tech takes off as regulation looms

**MICHAEL FELBERBAUM**

**AP Tobacco Writer**

**RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)**

— Just a few years ago, early adopters of e-cigarettes got their fix by clumsily screwing together a small battery and a plastic cartridge containing cotton soaked with nicotine. Now, the battery-powered contraptions have computer chips to regulate puffs and temperature, track usage, talk to other electronic devices and even blink when “vapers” are near each other.

U.S. officials say the technology race could make creating standards the devices, which heat a liquid to create vapor rather than burning tobacco, more difficult in the future. Unlike traditional smokes that are simply chopped tobacco rolled in paper with a filter, e-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes and the technological changes only make regulating them more of a headache.

At the same time, a rapidly growing market for e-cigarettes and the possibility that the devices could be safer than regular cigarettes have some in the industry worried that regulation that's too heavy-handed would stifle the

technological innovation — and their businesses.

“I think it's fair to say that there will always be some degree of a gap between (data) and the latest innovations,” Mitch Zeller,

director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. “But that's the beauty of regulation because over time, regula-

tion closes that gap. ... We will get to a point where new products have to come through us first.” It's unclear how quickly regulation will proceed, but the FDA seems to be

as well as approving new products. The agency has said its proposal sets a foundation for regulating the products but the rules wouldn't immediately ban the wide array of flavors

cals, tar or odor of regular cigarettes. Some, known as “cig-a-likes,” look like traditional cigarettes and use sealed cartridges that hold liquid nicotine. Others have empty compartments or tanks that users can fill their own liquid. Users also can buy different batteries and pieces to build their own e-cigarette.

Ultimately the FDA hopes to require e-cigarette makers to apply for approval for their products before they can be sold.

The nation's biggest tobacco companies, which have also started selling e-cigarettes, boast their own technology. Reynolds American Inc.'s Vuse-brand electronic cigarette contains a microprocessor and memory chip that regulate the power to heat the liquid nicotine for what the company calls the “perfect puff.” Altria Group Inc.'s MarkTen has four holes on the mouthpiece that make the puffs more closely resemble a traditional cigarette. Lorillard Inc.'s Blu e-cig brand offers a special carrying case that lights up when near another vaper or alerts the user when near a store that sells replacement cartridges. □



**In this Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 photo, a smoker poses for photos while taking a puff on a Smokio, an electronic cigarette or vaporizer that connects to an iPhone and other smartphones via Bluetooth to track puffs, tally the cost-savings and possible health benefits from switching from regular cigarettes, in Richmond, Va.**

**Associated Press**

director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. “But that's the beauty of regulation because over time, regula-

taking a deliberate approach.

In April, the FDA for the first time proposed a set of regulations for e-cigarettes, including banning sales to minors and requiring health warning labels,

or styles of e-cigarettes or curb marketing on places like TV.

Smokers like e-cigarettes because the nicotine-infused vapor looks like smoke but doesn't contain the thousands of chemi-

## Pioneer of video games, Simon dies at 92



**In this July 2009 file picture, German-American game developer Ralph Baer shows the prototype of the first games console, invented by him during a press conference at the Games Convention Online in Leipzig, Germany.**

**Associated Press**

**MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP)** — Ralph Baer, a video game pioneer who created both the precursor to “Pong” and the electronic memory game Si-

mon and led the team that developed the first home video game console, has died. He was 92.

Baer, a longtime resident of Manchester, died at his

home Saturday, the Goodwin Funeral Home in Manchester confirmed Monday.

Born in Germany, Baer escaped the Holocaust with his family.

He started thinking about what later became the home video game console while working as a television set designer in the 1950s. In the next decade, he started working on television games as chief engineer for Sanders Associates, now BAE Systems.

That led to The Brown Box, which was licensed by Magnavox and came out with the Odyssey in the early 1970s. The console, which connected to a television, could play about two dozen games, includ-

ing one called “Table Tennis” that was a precursor to “Pong.”

Baer received the National Medal of Technology from President George W. Bush in 2006 and was inducted into the U.S. National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2010.

Before inventing the system that became known as the Magnavox Odyssey, Baer said he often was asked by co-workers how the group would make any money from the project.

“People thought I was wasting my time and the company's money for that matter,” he said in 2010. “There's no way anybody could have predicted how fast this industry would take off.” A version of The Brown Box is now at the Ameri-

can History Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian plans to open a gallery next year with a focus on innovation and is including Baer's workshop.

Baer later formed his own consulting business, through which he created or assisted in developing numerous electronic toys and games. In Simon, still in production today, the player has to duplicate an increasingly complicated pattern of lights and sounds.

Baer told The Telegraph of Nashua in 2012 that he kept inventing. He almost couldn't help it.

“If you have it in your genes, it's almost like breathing,” he said. □



# Wall Street dips as energy sector drops sharply

**BERNARD CONDON**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. stocks fell on Monday as oil prices turned sharply lower and spooked investors into dumping shares of drillers and other energy-service companies.

economies. Among the big losers were two Dow Jones industrial average components, Chevron, down 3.7 percent, and Exxon Mobil, off 2.3 percent.

More broadly, the six-month drop in oil, which has brought the price of crude

— Japan, China and the eurozone — they're really struggling," he said. "Can the U.S. continue to grow at a moderate pace when the rest of the world is having major problems?"

Energy shares in the Standard and Poor's 500, a

Selling was especially fierce in shares of smaller companies in the oil business. Cimarex Energy, Transocean, and Noble Energy were each down at least 5 percent.

The Dow lost 106.31 points, or 0.6 percent, to 17,852.48. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 15.06 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,060.31. The Nasdaq composite fell 40.06 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,740.69

Stocks have been rising steadily since mid-October. An encouraging jobs report on Friday showing the biggest burst in hiring in nearly three years helped push the S&P 500 to a record, capping a seven-week winning streak, its longest this year. For its part, the Dow came within nine points of breaching 18,000 points on Friday, just six months after passing 17,000.

But troubles in Asia and falling stocks in Europe on Monday put that milestone further from reach.

In China, the world's No. 2 economy, the government reported that export growth fell sharply last month and imports unexpectedly contracted. The news followed figures showing China's economy growing at its slowest pace in five years. □



**Specialist Mario Picone, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks fell on Monday as oil prices turned sharply lower and spooked investors into dumping shares of drillers and other energy-service companies. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

The drop in oil weighed on stocks from the start of trading. Weak trade figures out of China and news that Japan's recession is deeper than initially thought suggested demand for crude would be lower in those two

down to the lowest level in five years, suggests headwinds for the U.S. economy, said Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist at Bell Curve Trading.

"When you look at the major drivers of global growth

broader index than the Dow, dropped to their lowest level in nearly two years. The decline of 3.9 percent was by far the biggest percentage drop among the 10 sectors in the index. Six of the 10 sectors fell.

# Merck dives into 'superbug' chase with Cubist

**TOM MURPHY**

**AP Business Writer**

Merck will spend \$8.4 billion to buy Cubist Pharmaceuticals and move deeper into treating so-called "superbugs" that have drawn dire warnings from global health organizations.

The company said Monday that the deal will give it stronger footing in hospital acute care and help it address antibiotic resistance, which the Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, drugmaker called a critical area of unmet medical need.

Antibiotic-resistant infections are linked to 23,000 deaths and 2 million illnesses in the United States annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC has called the

problem a threat to both health and economic stability, and President Obama in September ordered the government to create a national plan to fight them by early 2015.

In April, the World Health Organization warned that without a coordinated effort, "the world is headed for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries which have been treatable for decades can once again kill."

Antibiotics are used to kill or suppress the bacteria behind illnesses ranging from strep throat to urinary-tract infections. The drugs are considered one of the greatest advances in the history of medicine and have saved countless lives. But in recent decades

some common bacteria have grown resistant to antibiotics that were once highly effective. Experts say overuse and misuse of the drugs by physicians has contributed to the rise of these so-called superbugs.

Cubist draws most of its revenue from the antibiotic Cubicin, and it also has developed another treatment, Zerbaxa, that targets complicated urinary tract and intra-abdominal infections. The Food and Drug Administration is expected to make a decision on that drug later this month, and European regulators also are reviewing it. Cubist also paid more than \$1 billion last year to buy two rival antibiotic developers: Trius Therapeutics and Optimer Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Merck also is developing its own treatment for complicated infections, a drug labeled relebactam that is in midstage clinical testing. Merck is the world's fifth-largest drugmaker based on revenue, according to IMS Health.

The company expects the Cubist deal to add more than \$1 billion of revenue to its 2015 base and contribute significantly to its profit in 2016 and beyond. Merck will pay \$102 per share of Cubist, a 37 percent premium to its closing price on Friday.

Shares of Cubist, based in Lexington, Massachusetts, soared more than 35 percent, or \$26.34, to \$100.70 in midday trading Monday, while Merck and broader trading indexes slipped. □

# Delia's, a victim of retail slump, set to liquidate

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Delia's is seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and plans to sell all its merchandise and shut down as teen retailers fall out of fashion with shoppers.

The company said Monday that it filed for bankruptcy after it failed to find a buyer for the business. Delia's said it has \$74 million in assets and \$32.2 million in debt.

Retailers, especially those that cater to teens, have been hit hard in the wake of the recession and almost all of them have posted lackluster sales.

Black Friday sales this year tumbled 7 percent this year. Overall, 133.7 million people shopped in stores and online over the four-day weekend around Thanksgiving, down 5.2 percent from last year, according to a survey of 4,631 people conducted by Prosper Insights & Analytics for the trade group. Americans are spending less at the mall and when they do spend, they're often doing so at fast-fashion stores like H&M and Forever 21.

Abercrombie & Fitch Co. and Aeropostale Inc. have been hammered this year and their shares have fallen 22 percent and 73 percent, respectively, over the past 12 months.

American Eagle Outfitters Inc. is down 20 percent in that same time period and Urban Outfitters Inc. is down more than 13 percent. Last week, Delia's signed a deal with Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC and Gordon Brothers Retail Partners to liquidate its merchandise and dispose of its furnishings and equipment. CEO Tracy Gardner and Chief Operating Officer Brian Lex Austin-Gemas resigned on Friday.

Delia's Inc., based in New York, has 92 stores in malls around the country. Its shares fell below 2 cents in premarket trading Monday. □



## Of Taxes, Pigs and Congress



**GAIL COLLINS**  
© 2014 New York Times

Great news! After a year of hapless floundering, Congress appears well on its way to passing a major tax bill that will be signed by President Barack Obama. The bill, which the House approved last week, takes 50-odd expired tax breaks and extends them - for several weeks.

"It will die on Jan. 1. It's for last year!" said Rep. James McDermott, D-Wash., during a rather desultory House debate.

"I'm gonna vote yes like everybody else. But it makes no sense," McDermott added helpfully.

Well, if that's the bar, nothing is ever going to get done.

Most of the tax breaks that expired at the start of the year because of congressional inaction are helpful to businesses. If the bill becomes law, they'll be retroactively revived. Employers who have been making investments out of blind faith will be rewarded. Then it'll be 2015 and the whole drama starts all over again.

People, does that make sense to you? Well, it did to the House, which easily passed the bill after a brief debate during which members from both parties came together and agreed that their work was "not perfect."

"A terrible way to make tax policy," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which makes, um, tax policy.

Camp, who is retiring, got many, many plaudits during the debate for his efforts to produce serious tax reform this year. At the time, his fellow Republicans were horrified by his proposal to make modest reductions in the top business tax rate by closing beloved tax loopholes. House Speaker John Boehner made fun of him. The bill never got out of Camp's own committee.

On the plus side, he was really popular on Wednesday as he introduced what was left of his tax bill, which was the legislative equivalent of a wilted piece of arugula.

"I would prefer to be debating reform," said Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, the powerful chairman of the Rules Committee. This was shortly after he acknowledged the bill was "far from perfect."

Sessions is from Texas. Next year, the House will have six committee chairs from Texas, while Sen. John Cornyn of Texas will be No. 2 leader in the Senate. Also, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas is clearly running for president, as is Gov.

Rick Perry. This has nothing to do with the tax bill. I just thought you ought to be prepared.

But about taxes. Everybody agrees we need tax reform. Our current tax policy has about as many fans as that airplane passenger who took a pet pig to her seat as an "emotional support animal."

There is not going to be any major tax reform. There are members of Congress, like Camp and the Senate Finance chairman, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who believe there's got to be a way. If you run into either of them on the street, give him a hearty handshake. But don't hold your breath.

The latest battle over those expired tax breaks began when the House Republicans tried to make some permanent. And, really, they ought to be forever or not at all. But it created a problem for lawmakers who were worried about low-wage workers. There are parts of the earned-income tax credit and the child tax credit that expire in 2017, at which point their supporters expected to trade extensions with the business advocates.

There was a time when we thought that kind of trading was depressing sausage-making. Now, of course, we regard the era when that stuff worked as Athens in the age of Pericles.

Wyden says he thought negotiations were going along pretty well for a plan that made both the most important business tax breaks and the biggest ones for low-income workers permanent. Then, he said, the Republicans disappeared.

What do you think was bothering the Republicans? A) The sudden realization that tax cuts actually do add to the federal deficit. Or B) President Obama's executive order giving unauthorized immigrants the right to stay in the country.

Yes! Some Republicans said they were worried that the tax breaks for low-wage workers would help the unauthorized immigrants. We do not need to discuss whether or not this is actually a problem. We just need to acknowledge that whenever the Republicans do not want to do something for the next two years, they're going to play the immigrant card.

Enter the Senate majority leader, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, who was possibly interested in a deal that dropped the breaks for low-wage workers but added a permanent sales tax deduction for people who live in states without income taxes. Such as Nevada. Returning from Thanksgiving vacation, Wyden said, "I heard all these rumors about what was being worked out. And about an hour later the president called and said he was going to veto what was being discussed."

And here we are. With maximum effort, it's possible Congress might manage to pass a last-minute retroactive bill to keep some popular tax cuts alive for the holiday season. Which Obama would sign.

But I have seen the future, and it's worse.



## Abusing Chickens We Eat



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
© 2014 New York Times

If you buy a Perdue chicken in the grocery store, you might think it had lived a comfortable avian middle-class existence.

"Doing the right thing is things like treating your chickens humanely," Jim Perdue, the company's chairman, says in a promotional video. The company's labels carry a seal of approval from the Department of Agriculture asserting that the bird was "raised cage free," and sometimes "humanely raised," although it says it is phasing that one out.

Customers approve. Most of us are meat-eaters who still want animals treated humanely, and one survey found that 85 percent of consumers would prefer to buy chicken with a cage-free "humanely raised" label like Perdue's.

Enter Craig Watts, 48, a North Carolina farmer who says he raises about 720,000 chickens each year for Perdue. He watched the video of Jim Perdue and had an attack of conscience.

"My jaw just dropped," he said. "It couldn't get any further from the truth."

So Watts opened his four chicken barns to show how a Perdue chicken lives. It's a hellish sight. Watts invited an animal welfare group, Compassion in World Farming, to document conditions, and it has spent months

doing so. The organization has just released the resulting video on its website.

Most shocking is that the bellies of nearly all the chickens have lost their feathers and are raw, angry, red flesh. The entire underside of almost every chicken is a huge, continuous bed sore. As a farmboy who raised small flocks of chickens and geese, I never saw anything like that.

One reason seems to be modern breeding: Chickens are now bred to have huge breasts, and they often end up too heavy for their legs. Poultry Science journal has calculated that if humans grew at the same rate as modern chickens, a human would weigh 660 pounds by the age of eight weeks.

These chickens don't run around or roost as birds normally do. They stagger a few steps, often on misshapen legs, and then collapse onto the excrement of tens of thousands of previous birds. It is laden with stinging ammonia that seems to eat away at feathers and skin.

I called Perdue to see what the company had to say. Jim Perdue declined to comment, but a company spokeswoman, Julie DeYoung, agreed that undersides of chickens shouldn't be weeping red. She suggested that the operator was probably mismanaging the chicken house.

That doesn't go over well with Watts, whose family has owned the farm since the 1700s and says he has been raising chickens for Perdue since 1992, meticulously following its requirements.

As Watts sees it, Perdue realized that consumers were concerned about animal welfare and food safety, and decided to manipulate the public.

The claim about the chickens being raised "cage free" is misleading because birds raised for meat are not in cages. It's egg-laying chickens that are caged, not the ones we eat. So "cage free" is meaningful for eggs but not for chicken meat. Moreover, Perdue's chickens are crammed so tightly in barns that they might

as well be in cages. Each bird on the Watts farm gets just two-thirds of a square foot.

So why is our government giving its seal of approval to these methods as humane, in ways that seem to mislead consumers? "USDA is the accomplice of Perdue in the fooling of consumers," says Leah Garces, American director of Compassion in World Farming, who calls it a marketing scam.

Perdue may now be backing away from some of its claims. It settled a suit with the Humane Society of the United States by agreeing to remove the "humanely raised" line from some packaging, even as it denied wrongdoing.

All this leaves millions of Americans, me included, in a bind. We eat meat, yet we want to minimize cruelty to animals. This is an uncertain, inconsistent and perhaps hypocritical path, and it's hard enough without giant food companies manipulating us - in collusion with our own government.

Garces suggests that such consumers look for labels that say "certified humane," "global animal partnership" or "animal welfare approved." But they're expensive and harder to find.

Perdue's methods for raising chickens are typical of industrial agriculture. So the conundrum is this.

Big Ag has been stunningly successful in producing cheap food - the price of chicken has fallen by three-quarters in real terms since 1930. Yet there are huge external costs, such as antibiotic resistance and water pollution, as well as a routine cruelty that we tolerate only because it is mostly hidden.

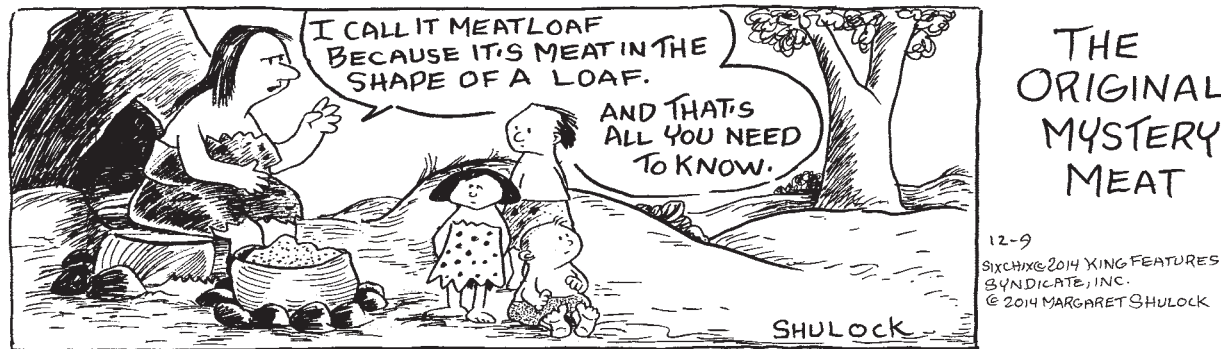
Torture a single chicken and you risk arrest. Abuse hundreds of thousands of chickens for their entire lives? That's agribusiness. I don't know where to draw the lines. But when chickens have huge open bedsores on their undersides, I wonder if that isn't less animal husbandry than animal abuse.



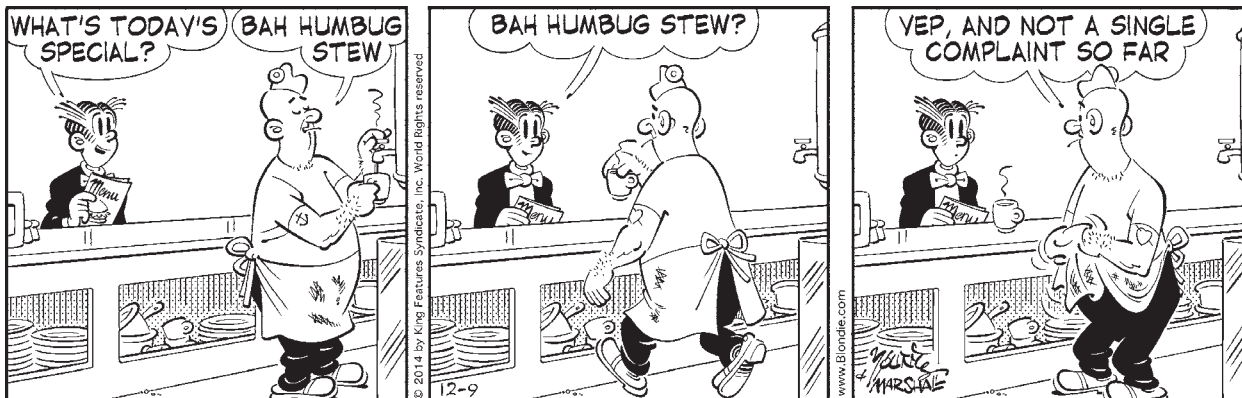
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



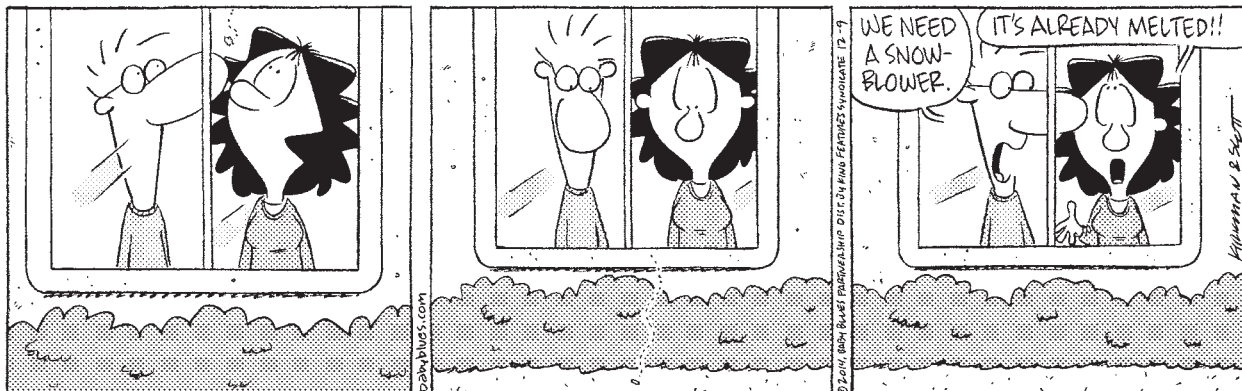
## Blondie



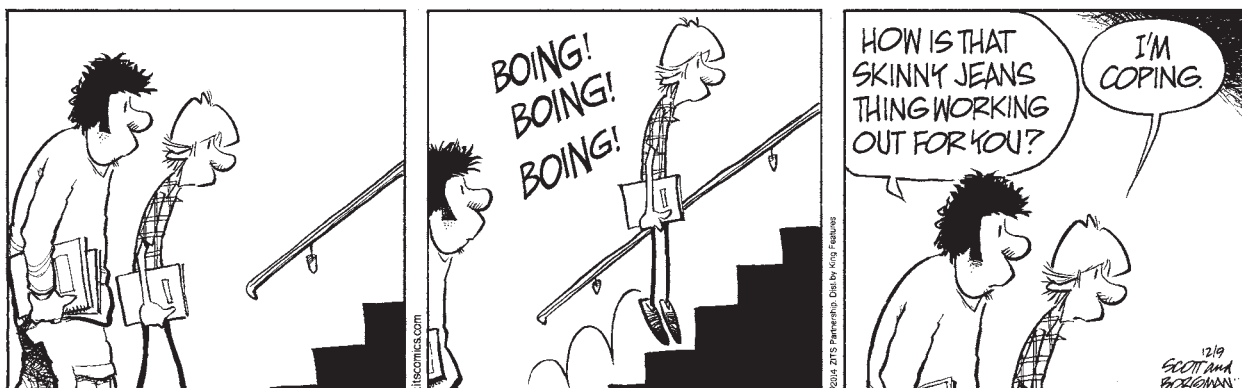
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

				3		5	
	5	9		8			6
	3		7		9		
		5				9	1
	2					3	
1		3				8	
			8	6		7	
9				4		5	1
	8		2				

Difficulty Level ★★

12/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

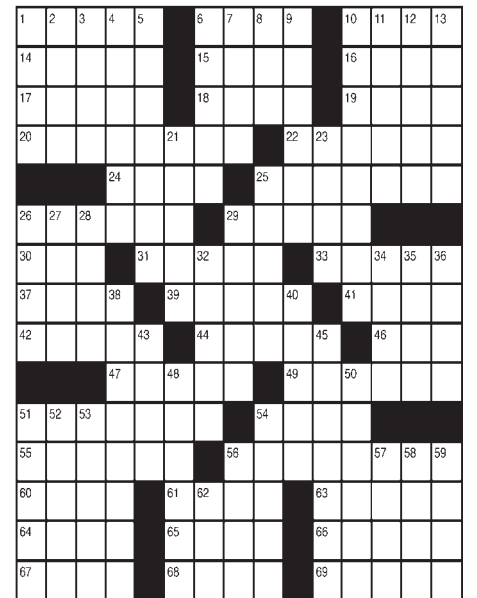
7	2	6	1	8	4	3	5	9
9	4	1	3	2	5	6	7	8
5	8	3	9	6	7	2	1	4
8	9	4	5	1	2	7	6	3
3	1	2	7	4	6	9	8	5
6	5	7	8	9	3	1	4	2
1	3	9	4	7	8	5	2	6
2	7	8	6	5	9	4	3	1
4	6	5	2	3	1	8	9	7

### ACROSS

- Wide gap
- Nag
- mitts; pot holders
- "Dolly!"
- Has debts
- Uncovered
- Firebug's crime
- Gaga
- Unhurried
- Real estate
- Edam or Swiss
- Facial features
- President
- Alan Arthur
- "Messiah" composer
- Rowing teams
- Mimic
- Actor Willem
- Looks for
- 76ers or 49ers
- Song of an Alpine goatherd
- Native of Copenhagen
- Praise
- Quick
- Mediterranean or Caribbean
- Keeps an ice cream cone from dripping
- Hear
- Nassau's nation
- "Jeremiah" bullfrog...
- In; as one
- Using few words
- Hostels
- Eye secretion
- Maui greeting
- Theater box
- Possesses
- Wanderer
- Prepares
- Easter eggs
- Robin's home
- Uncomfortable indoor breeze

### DOWN

- Fellow
- German mister
- Additionally



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/9/14

### Monday's Puzzle Solved

CAB	BACKS	ITSA
OWES	ALONE	NULL
WEAK	NICER	SNAP
SKYJACKER	TAMS	
LONE	APE	
OTTAWA	CATAPULT	
WHIRL	PAGES	SAW
LINK	POSED	DUDE
EGG	FINES	BERLE
THEOLOGY	HUMPED	
BUN	BONE	
SOSO	ECCENTRIC	
THAI	ELATE	IRON
OILS	RAFTS	TIDE
POET	SWEET	SEW

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12/9/14

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 40 Light purple             | 53 Metal piece for a door hanger |
| 43 Long car, for short      | 54 Sausage                       |
| 45 Throw away               | 56 Without                       |
| 48 Ohio city south of Akron | 57 Scotland                      |
| 50 Mariner                  | 58 Julia Child or Emeril         |
| 51 Construct                | 59 Small fruit pie               |
| 52 Bother                   | 62 Lamb's mother                 |



## Study proves high heels do have power over men

THOMAS ADAMSON  
AP Fashion Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — The well-heeled Marilyn Monroe reportedly once said if you give a girl the right shoes, she can conquer the world. The allure of high-heeled shoes is no secret among women, who have used them to entice men from the streets of Ancient Rome to the New York City sidewalks of Carrie Bradshaw. Heels have also been a controversial symbol in the battleground of sexual politics. Now a scientific study in France has measured their power.

Scientists from the Universite de Bretagne-Sud conducted experiments that showed that men behave very differently toward high-heeled women. The results, published online in the journal "Archives of Sexual Behaviour," may please the purveyors of Christian Louboutin or Jimmy Choo shoes — yet frustrate those who think stilettos encourage sexism. The study found if a woman drops a glove on the street while wearing heels, she's almost 50 percent more likely to have a man fetch it for her than if she's wearing flats.

Another finding: A woman wearing heels is twice as likely to persuade men to stop and answer survey questions on the street. And a high-heeled woman in a bar waits half the time to get picked up by a man, compared to when her heel is nearer to the ground. "Women's shoe heel size exerts a powerful effect on men's behavior," says the study's author, Nicolas Gueguen, a behavioral science researcher. "Simply put, they make women more beautiful."

Raised shoes have an unglamorous beginning: worn first by Egyptian butchers, who donned platforms to avoid treading in bloody offal. But on women as "signifiers of femininity," raised shoes initially appeared in Ancient Greece and Rome, according to Elizabeth Semmelhack of The Bata Shoe Museum. In Rome, where the sex trade was legal, high heels helped clients identify prostitutes in



A woman wears high heels in a shop in Paris. Scientists from the Universite de Bretagne-Sud conducted experiments that showed that men behave very differently toward high-heeled women. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

crowds.

Although high heels were worn for centuries in the Ottoman Empire and in Persia for horseback riding, they only minced into the West in the 1500s, when they were associated with imperial power and popularized as erotic in the 19th and 20th

centuries. Such was the allure that a person with status or wealth became referred to as "well-heeled."

This study shows this allure is very much alive.

"Though it's a relatively small cross-section, this study is very significant since the results are clear and con-

sistent," said Paris-based sociologist Jean-Claude Kaufmann, who was not involved in the study. "In a relation of seduction, men are very attracted by a woman in heels as she looks taller, more sexually confident, sure of herself, with a lengthened silhouette and sensual jutting buttocks."

Gueguen's study had 19-year-old female volunteers wearing black shoes with heels that were 0.5cm (0.2 inches) or 5cm (2 inches) or 9cm (3 1/2 inches) high. Then they asked men between the ages of 25-50 for help in various circumstances. One situation involved a woman asking passers-by: "Excuse me, sir. We are currently conducting a survey on gender equality. Would you agree to answer our questionnaire?" Flat heels got a 46.7% answer rate, medium heels a 63% rate and the highest heels a whopping 83% success rate from the men. □

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### San Barbola 292

This property is built on 6468 sf of property land. The property comes fully fenced in, with alarm system, modern European kitchen, separate storage/laundry area, nicely landscaped garden and much more. **Layout:** Living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms & covered back porch.

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15	327	\$6500
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19	547	\$5000

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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Oranjestad: Oduber Tel: 582-1780  
San Nicolas: Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

## CRUISESHIP



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American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
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### Foundation Amor

#### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

### Women in Difficulties

#### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

### Bloodbank Aruba

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24/7

# Scientists re-do what may be life's first spark

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Scientists in a lab used a powerful laser to re-create what might have been the original spark of life on Earth. Researchers zapped clay and a chemical soup with the laser to simulate the energy of a speeding asteroid smashing into the planet. They ended up creating what can be considered crucial pieces of the building blocks of life. The experiment produced all four chemical bases needed to make RNA, a simpler relative of DNA, the blueprint of life. From these bases, there are many still-mysterious steps that must happen for life to emerge. But this is a potential starting point in that process. Some scientists were unimpressed by the results, which do not actually prove that this is how life started on Earth about 4 billion years ago, a time when asteroids were bombarding our planet 10 times more frequently than

before or after. But the experiment bolsters this particular theory. "These findings suggest that the emergence of terrestrial life is not the result of an accident but a direct consequence of the conditions on the primordial Earth and its surroundings,"



This handout photo provided by Svatopluk Civis, taken in 2014, shows the Prague Asterix Laser System in Prague.

Associated Press

the researchers concluded in the study published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Scientists have been able to make these RNA bases

other ways, using chemical mixes and pressure, but this is the first experiment to test the theory that the energy from a space crash could trigger the crucial chemical reaction, said lead author Svatopluk Civis of the Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry in Prague.

concentrated that Civis said that for less than a billionth of a second, it was equivalent to the output of a couple of nuclear power plants. It produced what would be around a billion kilowatts of energy for that sliver of time over a fraction of an inch, generating heat of more than 7,600 degrees Fahrenheit (4,200 Celsius), the researchers said.

Some of the earliest life on Earth seemed to coincide with a period called the Late Heavy Bombardment, when the solar system's asteroid belt was bigger and stray space rocks hit our planet more often, said study co-author David Nesvorný, a planetary scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado.

Outside experts were divided about the importance of the experiment.

Steve Benner, a prominent biological chemist at the Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution in Florida, said it is quite relevant because it produced

the starting material that would have been around in an early Earth.

But John Sutherland of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England, said the amount produced of one base was so small that the results don't seem relevant. Other researchers also downplayed the work.

An alternative theory of early life on Earth says that microbes arrived here from space aboard a comet or an asteroid — a sort of seed theory of life. Civis' work bolsters what would instead be a fire theory of life. It is a theory of both creation and destruction.

For this whole chemical reaction to work, the extreme energy from the asteroid collision would have had to break down molecules into less-complex chemicals, which then could re-form into the more vital combinations. The type of asteroid impact that might have sparked this process also snuffed out the dinosaurs billions of years later, Nesvorný said. □

# Mars mountain may have formed from big, wet lake

**MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP)** — NASA's Curiosity rover is helping scientists close in on a Martian mystery: Why does a mountain jut out of a barren crater? Scientists said Monday that rock images indicate that 3-mile-high Mount Sharp may have formed in a big lake bed over a million or even tens of millions of years. Deposits of sediment seem to have shaped the mountain. That begs the question as to whether microbial life may have existed there in those wet ancient times.

"This lake was large enough, it could have lasted millions of years — sufficient time for life to get started and thrive, sufficient time for lake sediment to build up to form Mount Sharp," said Michael Meyer, lead scientist of NASA's Mars exploration program.

Curiosity's latest observations could mean Mars' warm, wet period occurred about 3.5 billion years ago, more recent than had been thought. In addition, Martian lakes could have lasted longer than previously suspected. Scientists are uncertain



This mosaic image provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS made from photographs taken by the Mast Camera (Mastcam) on NASA's Curiosity Mars rover looks to the west of the Kimberley waypoint on the rover's route to the base of Mount Sharp.

Associated Press

whether this wet period was continuous or interrupted by dry spells. Meyer acknowledged that even here on Earth, "we don't have a very good handle" on how long it takes life to originate and

how long a conducive environment needs to be in place beforehand. So addressing the possibility of whether life once existed on other planets is made all the more complicated. Curiosity has been explor-

ing Gale Crater since its arrival on Mars two years ago; the rover reached the base of Mount Sharp a few months ago. The crater, 96 miles (155 kilometers) across, was caused by an asteroid impact. □



# Made in Japan Godzilla is back after Hollywood hit

**YURI KAGEYAMA**  
AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — Godzilla is stomping back. And this time, it's Made in Japan, like the original.

The announcement this week from Japanese film studio Toho comes after the success earlier this year of the Hollywood Godzilla, directed by Gareth Edwards, which grossed more than \$500 million worldwide.

Toho said in 2004 it had made its last Godzilla film, the 28th in the series centered on the irradiated monster, which first stomped into the world in 1954.

Over the years, Godzilla movies fell out of favor even among Japanese fans.

But the latest Hollywood Godzilla, complete with spikes down its back and a terrifying roar, received relatively favorable reviews in Japan, unlike the 1998 Hollywood Godzilla, directed by Roland Emmerich, which purist fans hated.

Toho said recent innovations in computer-graphics technology were behind its decision to revive Godzilla.

The Toho Godzilla is set for release in 2016, before Edwards releases his sequel for Legendary Pictures and Warner Brothers in 2018.

Toho has not yet picked a director for the upcoming reboot.

The Tokyo-based company, which owns the rights for Godzilla, declined to say whether it would bring back the man-in-a-rubber suit behind the original Godzilla or rely on computer graphics — or have both.

Japanese movies such as Toho's latest, "Parasyte," about alien creatures taking over human bodies, utilize sophisticated computer-graphics technology although it may be hard for Toho to match Hollywood's dazzle.

The widely praised origi-



This photo taken from a scene of the 1954 film "Godzilla" and provided by Toho Co., shows Godzilla. Godzilla is stomping back. And this time, it's Made in Japan, like the original.

Associated Press

nal black-and-white "Godzilla" was directed by Ishiro Honda.

Other directors took over for the subsequent Japanese works, which at times became absurdly comical, featuring battles with manga-like, or cartoonish, monsters.

Godzilla, or "gojira," as the Japanese say it — a combination of the words for "whale" and "gorilla" — was a mutation that emerged from the Pacific because of nuclear testing.

The giant reptilian creature has crushed just about every famous building in Japan including Tokyo Tower and the Parliament building.

Japan, the only nation in the world to suffer atomic bombings, has a soft spot for the fire-breathing

creature as representing the suffering unleashed by nuclear weapons. □



In this Oct. 22, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama kisses his wife Michelle after the third presidential debate at Lynn University, in Boca Raton, Fla.

Associated Press

## Independent film will dramatize Obamas' 1st date

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An independent film that will dramatize President Barack Obama's first date with Michelle Obama is in development.

Producer Stephanie Allain confirmed Monday that she and Tracey Bing are producing "Southside With You," a drama about the first summer afternoon the Obamas spent together. Tika Sumpter will play the future first lady. The search is on for an actor to play

the young president-to-be.

Richard Tanne will write and direct the film.

The Obamas' first date took place in 1989 in Chicago, visiting the Art Institute of Chicago and going to see Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing." At the time, both were working at the Chicago law firm Sidley Austin.

Deadline Hollywood first reported on the plans for the film. □

## Jamie Foxx: Tough dialogue needed on killings by police

**LAURI NEFF**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jamie Foxx is calling for a tough dialogue in the wake of killings by police and recent protests over them. The actor says, "We'll probably have to have a few uncomfortable conversations to sort of get things right, so everybody can walk and enjoy America like it's supposed to be enjoyed." Foxx spoke in the wake of protests following grand jury decisions in

Missouri and New York not to indict white police officers in the deaths of two unarmed black men.

Foxx made the remarks Sunday at the New York premiere of "Annie."

Foxx stars with 11-year-old Quvenzhané (kweh-VEHN'-zhah-nay) Wallis and Cameron Diaz in the musical comedy, whose producers include Will and Jada Pinkett Smith and Shawn "Jay Z" Carter. The movie opens in theaters Dec. 19. □



Actor Jamie Foxx poses during a photo call for the film "Annie" at the Crosby Hotel on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press



# Ridley Scott, Christian Bale defend 'Exodus' casting

**JOHN CARUCCI**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The biblical film "Exodus: Gods and Kings" has come under fire for white actors being cast in the main roles as Egyptians.

But director Ridley Scott has a message for those trying to boycott the movie: "I say, 'Get a life.'"

Scott said he had to assemble the "best possible cast ... on a budget of this scale." The film cost an estimated \$140 million.

Actor Christian Bale supported his director, saying working with him was "a true partnership."

Bale said he was surprised when Scott wanted to cast him as Moses.

"Then I did some research and just found it to be too fascinating to pass it up," he said.

The Oscar-winning actor understands the controversy over the film's casting choices, though he sees the business side of it.



**Christian Bale, from left, Ridley Scott and Joel Edgerton attend an after party for the premiere of "Exodus: Gods and Kings" at The Brooklyn Museum on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, in New York.**

**Associated Press**

"No doubt it would have been a melting pot between Europe and the Middle East and North Africa," Bale said.

But he praised Scott for doing what was needed to

finance the movie.

"He's been incredibly honest in getting a large, big-budget film like this made," he said.

Bale was alluding to the fact that investors feel safe

er with big-name actors.

"I don't think fingers should be pointed, but we should all look at ourselves and say, 'Are we supporting wonderful actors in films by North African and Middle

Eastern filmmakers and actors, because there are some fantastic actors out there," Bale said.

He said he feels audiences can help international actors who are lesser known in the Western world get cast in major films.

"If people start supporting those films more and more, then financiers in the market will follow," Bale said.

"The audience has to show financiers that they will be there, and (then) they could make a large budget film."

Bale said the time will come when another film about Moses will be cast with a North African or Middle Eastern actor.

"To me that would be a day of celebration. For the actors it would be wonderful. It would be a wonderful day for humanity, but also for films and for storytelling in general," he said.

Scott and Bale attended an "Exodus" premiere in Brooklyn on Sunday. □

# The Temptations, The Four Tops eager to compete

**MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When they're offstage, members of The Temptations and The Four Tops — two of Motown's most iconic groups — have nothing but love for each other. It's a different story when the microphones are turned on.

"We're very competitive," said Abdul "Duke" Fakir, of the Four Tops. "That's the way Motown was built. Basically we competed all the while. But we competed in a wonderful way — brother against brother."

Fakir and Otis Williams, his opposite number in The Temptations, will be renewing their rivalry for the best tunes on Broadway this winter for a seven-concert stand between Dec. 29-Jan. 4 at the Palace Theatre.

The two men are the only surviving original members of their groups. "Him and I are in the same position," said Williams. "Him and I are the last remaining members of our respective



**This 1966, file photo, provided by Gordy Recording Artists, shows the Rhythm and Blues group "The Temptations." Clockwise from bottom left are David Ruffin, Melvin Franklin, Paul Williams, Otis Williams, and in the center, Eddie Kendricks.**

**Associated Press**

groups. We have love for each other."

The Temptations had hits with "The Way You Do The Things You Do," "My Girl," "Get Ready" and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg." The Four Tops are known for "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)," "Baby I Need Your Lovin'," "Reach Out (I'll Be There)" and "Standing In the Shad-



ows (of Love)."

"I never would have imagined that I'd still be here singing songs that are half my age," joked the 73-year-old Williams. "Those songs feel fantastic even if it is 60 years later."

The two groups tour often and were last on Broadway in 1986. Their concerts are part nostalgia and part education, reminding the audience of the Motown sound and celebrating such songwriters as Lamont Dozier and brothers Brian

Holland and Eddie Holland.

"I'm very committed on keeping the legacy as strong as possible and hopefully to strengthen it," said Fakir, 78. "We can only be ourselves, be the best we can and come out swinging."


The songs they'll sing are part of modern music's DNA and the men credit their timelessness to having a story to tell and a great groove. "You have some great music and some

great lyrics, and all you have to do is just sing it and just let it flow," said Fakir.

Both were more critical when it came to discussing today's music, with Williams admitting, "I'm not that impressed with some of the stuff that I hear on the radio." As for Fakir, the anger and personal attacks he hears in rap and pop are a turn-off: "The more disrespectful you are, the better they like it. It's just changing times. That's the way of the world."

One irony of their upcoming Broadway concert series is that it will take place not far from the show "Motown," about Berry Gordy's Motown Records which features songs from both groups. Fakir and Williams have both seen the musical several times and like it. "It just shows the greatness of Motown that we can be right down the block from the 'Motown' show," said Williams. "You can leave that theater and come to our theater and see us do it in person." □





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